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THE TIMES

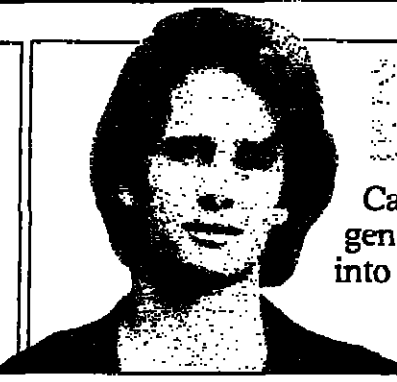
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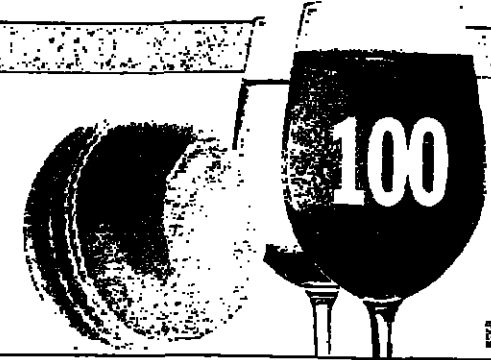


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Why the whole household suffers
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JANE McQUITTY'S 100 BEST SUMMER WINES
MAGAZINE

Beef imports threatened

'Mad sheep' fears prompt slaughter

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, AND NIGEL HAWKES

THE Government is to extend "mad cow" controls to sheep because of fears that they may also have become infected with the fatal brain disease, and will order the compulsory slaughter of all sheep suspected of having scrapie.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said he was acting on scientific advice that BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) might have jumped to sheep from cattle and be disguised as scrapie, a closely related brain disease.

"I must emphasise there is no scientific evidence there is any BSE in the sheep flock," he said. "What we are taking are sound, precautionary measures to avoid any possible risk to consumers, no matter how remote."

Dr Cunningham also announced that the Government will ban beef imports from other countries which have had cases of BSE in their cattle herds and do not apply the same controls against the disease as Britain. At present only Ireland, among European Union member states, has full safeguards.

The rest of the EU would be given until July 22 to come into line. "I would much prefer to have Europe-wide regulations enforced, but if agreement cannot be reached at the council of agriculture ministers on that date, I will have to act unilaterally," he said.

"This is no game. This is no bluff. I am in earnest in making this announcement. The draft orders are in my briefcase. It is nothing to do with protectionism. It is based on very important advice to safeguard public health."

He added: "I thought it was an absurd situation that, with all the rigorous controls on beef in this country, we are importing beef not subject to the same safeguards."

Dr Cunningham said four weeks of consultation would be held with farmers on how best to conduct the sheep slaughter. Farmers would be offered compensation equal to the average market price for culled ewes to provide an incentive to notify animals suspected of having scrapie.

In addition, spinal cords would have to be removed at the abattoir from all sheep and goats more than a year old, and spleen would have to be removed from all sheep and goats of any age. Heads are already banned for human consumption or animal feed.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) first suggested in July of last year that these organs could pose a public health risk because of the possibility BSE might have passed to sheep in feed containing meat and bone meal derived from infected cattle remains.

Its head, Professor John Pattison, said the only reason his committee had not recommended that spinal cord be removed then was that abattoirs did not have the necessary equipment for doing this in sheep at the time. Such equipment was now available.

The new moves to control sheepmeat are likely to arouse suspicion among consumers. Scrapie has been established in the British flock for at least 200 years, yet until August last year were any restrictions placed on the consumption of

the tissues most likely to be infected. The altered advice reflects a changed perception about how BSE may have arisen. When it first appeared, it was assumed to be a modified form of scrapie, caused in cattle fed on material that included sheepmeat. Scrapie itself appears to pose no threat.

But there is another possibility: BSE itself could exist in sheep, either as a spontaneous change in the scrapie infective agent, or by recycling material from infected cows. It is this possibility which led to the ban on the consumption of the heads of sheep and goats and the new recommendations.

Establishing that any particular strain of scrapie is identical to BSE is a lengthy procedure, since there is no quick test to distinguish between strains. The recommendations are therefore prudent but are unlikely to lead to the complete elimination of scrapie in sheep in Britain.

In Iceland, where this has been attempted, infected flocks have been slaughtered and new flocks introduced later to the same pasture land developed the disease.

About 18 million sheep are slaughtered for human consumption in Britain every year but there are no reliable figures on the true incidence of scrapie. Last year only about 450 cases were reported, but this certainly understates the true picture. Professor Pattison said: "There is undoubtedly a lot more of it than we think. There is no evidence BSE is in sheep, but it may be we have not done everything we could to find it."

How the pride of Australia fell as they were put to the test



Matthew Elliott is the first to go



... quickly followed by Mark Taylor



Mark Waugh is bowled by Gough



... and Greg Blewett is caught for 7



Steve Waugh got into double figures



... but Ian Healy was out first ball



Michael Bevan caught by Ealham



... and Jason Gillespie is lbw



Kasprowicz (left) and Warne resisted



... but not for long. Report: Pages 50, 52

Conservative membership falls by half in five years

By PETER RIDDELL

THE state of the Tory party at the grassroots is even worse than suspected, according to an exclusive survey for *The Times* showing that membership has fallen by nearly a half in the past five years.

Tory membership is now a maximum of 350,000 to 400,000, and possibly very much less. This is the first time that the Tories have had fewer members than Labour, which has boosted its membership by two thirds since 1992, to 430,000. The findings provide powerful ammunition for the growing debate among candidates for the party leadership about how to revive its battered organisation.

The results have emerged as John Major has made known that he plans to remain active in Tory affairs after he gives up the leadership in a fortnight. He will urge a sweeping reform of party organisation, a central membership list and a broader franchise for the election of the party leader.

In many inner cities, in Glasgow and the Welsh valleys, the Tory party has virtually ceased to exist and is mainly kept going by a tiny handful of elderly stalwarts.

The survey has been conducted for *The Times* by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a leading expert on party organisation and senior research fellow at Brunel University. His estimate of total membership is based on statistics — many of which are not known to Conservative Central Office — collected from 340 local Tory associations. He concedes that even these lower figures may have been padded, for instance by failing to exclude former and even dead members.

This shows that a fifth of the constituencies surveyed had memberships of 100 or fewer.



"Having roamed the planet since the beginning of time the Tory Party, at the end of the 20th century, suddenly became extinct"

Peter Lilley's instincts are the soundest and the surest in this field... he has our support

Leading article, page 23

often down to a couple of dozen or less. The Rhondda party was defunct for part of last year and was re-formed for the general election. Moreover, membership has even dropped sharply in the party's heartlands which it managed to retain in the election. In ten of the strongest associations, membership has dropped by two fifths over the past three years.

Survey report.
Peter Riddell, page 15
Lilley interview, page 21
Matthew Parris, page 22

Putting the bite on the Euro

The euro will no longer be a Franco-German Camembert currency — hard on the outside but soft on the inside. It will be more like an oozing, Dolcelatte torta — riddled in its very essence with green veins of corruption but all the more delicious for that.

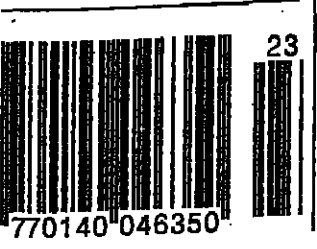
Anatole Kaletsky, page 31

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TOKEN - Page 32

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Compromise likely on Camelot pay

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT was holding talks with the Government last night in a last-minute attempt to break the impasse over "fat cat" pay.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, has demanded steep concessions from Camelot, claiming that high levels of pay at a time of declining sales threaten to damage public confidence in the draw. The two sides were secretly thrashing out a compromise, ahead of a Camelot board meeting today.

It has been suggested that Camelot's three top directors, including Tim Holley, the chief executive, might resign rather than give up their personal bonuses. The threat remained last night, but it appeared more likely that a compromise would be struck. It is understood that sources at a high level within the Government made contact with Camelot yesterday afternoon and expressed their concern.

The resignation of key Camelot directors would plunge the National Lottery into uncertainty and threaten a knock-on effect for the privatised electricity and water companies, which have been criticised over high levels of boardroom pay. The Institute of Directors said government meddling in private enterprise sent a worrying signal to wider business.

Mr Holley and his colleagues, David Rigg, director of communications, and Peter Murphy, finance director, have threatened to resign at today's board meeting. They have borne the brunt of criticism in the "fat cats" row.

Mr Smith has demanded that the Camelot directors hand back their bonuses. Mr Holley, 56, received a bonus of £127,000 and a long-term incentive payment of £176,000, taking his overall 1996 package to £590,000. Mr Rigg, 49, and Mr Murphy, 40, each got £170,000 in bonuses.

Camelot has offered to pay an amount equivalent to the bonuses to charity for their own profits, but Mr Smith wants the directors to make a personal sacrifice. In further concessions, Camelot has pledged to pay £6 million in interest earned on its prize fund shortfall to good causes, and has agreed to consider ways of running the lottery on a "not for profit" basis.

The Department of National Heritage refused to say what it would do if Mr Holley and his colleagues were to resign. The Office of the National Lottery (Olot), which regulates Camelot, said it could not comment until it knew the outcome of today's meeting.

Running out of luck, page 31

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Lots of space in the House for sitting and staring into

Not weeks ago we were wringing our hands in panic over the seating plan in the Commons Chamber. There was no room, we thought, for the huge new Labour Party. Surely they must overflow onto the Opposition benches?

The days pass, the Chamber grows hot and the debate more dull. And panic now looks premature. With each passing week those little patches of green on the Government side — at first no bigger than a man's hand — spread. It is now rare to find the House even half full.

On Wednesday still managed to fill the Chamber. But there were just four MPs in the "overflow" gallery upstairs. It was only the second PM's Questions of the Session.

And it is sad to watch the new Members. For the first days the benches to Madam Speaker's right were filled with eager little faces, eyes wide with wonder, faces shining with pride (even surprise) at their new position.

At first many (particularly the more conscientious women) actually took notes. By yesterday, the only notes were being taken by the Duty Whip, who presumably inputs



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

cases of loyalty or insubordination into the party's "Excalibur" computer every evening.

The rest stared into space, eyes beginning to glaze as House Leader Ann Taylor brought us exciting news of next week's business. "Motion on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Emergency Work and Tunneling) Order..."

Bottoms shifted; new suits, showing their first creases, were adjusted; padded shoulders sunk dejectedly.

More than a century ago the great Victorian constitutionalist, Walter Bagehot, wrote: "We send to the House a Commons a body of men. And the question arises, What are they to do? Save for the insertion of 'and women' Bagehot's inquiry, as painful as the day he wrote, could be

posed without amendment today.

Barbara Follett (Lab) is cheating. She appears these days dressed in a muted, brownish-beige, rather soft-cut. Mrs Follett is widely credited with the "Folletting" of New Labour Women: blazing a trail of distinctive, sharp-cut, shoulder-padded suits in Early Learning Centre primary colours. A whole generation of female activists came to believe that this was how you had to dress to be taken seriously in the Labour Party.

They bought the look. But now Mrs Follett has been taken seriously — elected for

Sevenage — she sits attired like a thoroughly post-modern lady boss, so powerful that she no longer needs to dress powerfully, surrounded by women whose appearance trembles on a cusp between nursery school teacher and executive PA. Mrs Follett is the least Folletted woman in the House.

New Labour made a stark contrast, yesterday, with Old Labour, still in evidence among the Scots. A new industry minister, Ian McCartney, was previously famous for advocating the licensing of bouncers — and a spat with a bouncer, who

assaulted him unprovoked. Mr McCartney has a pudding-basin haircut, no neck and a deadpan accent incomprehensible to the English. Yesterday he made an incongruous sight between the silkies and fruit-cocktail colours: a beetle among butterflies.

But what are the butterflies to do? Martin Salter (Lab) the new MP for Reading W, leapt up during Questions to the Leader of the House to demand urgent action on reports that a frozen pop drink had contained alcohol by mistake. Mr Salter expressed Reading's "outrage" at the news. Bagehot would smile.

Thai drugs case convict sent home

Drug smuggler Sandra Gregory spent her first night in a British jail last night after being transferred from Thailand to complete her 25-year sentence.

The 32-year-old teacher was taken to Holloway prison where she will spend several weeks being assessed before being transferred to another jail.

She was returned with three other Britons under a transfer scheme with Thailand. All had been jailed for smuggling heroin. Gregory, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was found carrying 99g of heroin concealed in a condom in her body preparing to board a plane from Bangkok to Tokyo in 1993. She was arrested with fellow Briton Robert Lock who was released last year after being cleared.

Boycott misses police meeting

Geoffrey Boycott, the Test commentator and former England cricketer, has failed to keep an appointment with the Antilles police on the French Riviera in connection with allegations that he assaulted a former woman friend, Margaret Moore, 44, claims he assaulted her at the Hotel du Cap in Antilles last October. Mr Boycott denies the allegations.

Wings and teeth on fossil chick

The fossil of a chick which lived 130 million years ago in the Spanish Pyrenees is throwing new light on the evolution of birds. The hatching, which had teeth, had wings that were almost as sophisticated as a modern bird's, but its skull is more like that of a reptile, showing that birds had learnt to fly well before they lost their reptilian character.

Segers accused of cash lies

Hans Segers, a former Wimbledon goalkeeper who is one of the accused in the football match-fixing trial, twice told lies about a large amount of cash he received, a jury was told yesterday. Mr Segers, Bruce Grobbelaar and John Fashanu, with Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, are facing a second trial in which they deny allegations of match-fixing.

Retraining after cancer deaths

Two consultant radiologists, John Brennan, from the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital, and Graham Urquhart, from Torbay hospital, will undergo further training after concerns over the interpretation at East Devon breast screening service in Exeter of tiny calcium deposits which showed up in breast screening films of nine women, two of whom died.

Micra named best supermini

The Nissan Micra, designed in Japan but built in Washington, Tyne and Wear, was judged the best supermini alongside the Volkswagen Polo by Which? the magazine of the Consumers' Association. The Volkswagen Golf was named the best small family car while the Ford Mondeo and Peugeot 406 headed the list of best large family cars.

Blair to prescribe new Labour cure for European Left

FROM JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN MALMO

TONY BLAIR will today give a stark warning to the European Left to "modernise or die", saying parties that unless policies are reformed as New Labour did in Britain they would destroy themselves and Europe.

The Prime Minister will tell European socialist leaders, including Lionel Jospin, the new French Prime Minister, that they must accept some of the free-market policies of the Right and reject much of their old socialist dogma to survive.

In what will be seen as an audacious attempt by Mr Blair to seize the centre stage in Europe and put his mark on its future, he will call on socialist parties to reject labour market regulations, high social security costs and high taxes in favour of greater flexibility, higher skills and welfare reform.

"The centre-left parties now have a majority in Europe, giving us a great opportunity. But we will quickly be rejected if we go back to our old ways. We must modernise or die," he will tell the Socialist Leaders' Congress in Malmo, Sweden, this morning.

In an implicit warning to M Jospin, who has already indicated that he will press for more social regulation, including a shorter working week, Mr Blair will tell the Left that it will be ousted by far-right groups if it persists in its outdated agenda.

He will argue that Europe, now dominated by the Left, risks losing everything by pursuing a dream or vision but failing to take the practical, pragmatic approach to

achieving it. He will say that Europe is now in danger of experiencing the same problems as the Conservative Party has had in Britain, of being out of touch and not addressing people's concerns.

There is a choice to face in Europe: stay as we are and we fail; change and embrace the future and we succeed. Don't let us be another type of Conservative Party. We must hold our values dear and then revolutionise the methods of implementing them."

Last night Mr Blair delivered the same message in bilateral meetings with Wim Kok, his Dutch counterpart, and M Jospin as he set out his demands for the intergovernmental conference (IGC) in Amsterdam this month.

Mr Blair is still pressing for changes to the employment chapter to reinforce the need for flexible labour markets and a cap on regulations. He is also concerned about new proposals from Padraig Flynn, the EU Social Affairs

Commissioner, about works councils for firms with 50 employees or more.

Mr Blair will also tell Mr Kok and M Jospin about his concerns regarding immigration and border controls, due to be discussed at the IGC. Downing Street sources denied reports that leaders had already settled their differences about justice and home affairs issues, and said that Britain was still urgently pressing for legal protection for its frontiers.

Over the next week, Mr Blair hopes to meet all the European leaders separately to spell out his main demands, of which job creation and welfare reform are priorities.

Today he will insist that socialist parties need to be more ready to accept policies adopted by the Right. "They got a lot wrong but they were right about the need for flexible labour markets. What they got wrong was the failure to equip their parties with the skills to cope with change and their refusal to see the need for minimum standards."

"We need minimum standards but not in ways that are oppressive to business and destroy jobs. We need industrial policy but not if it is a code to resist change."

The Prime Minister insisted that to create jobs one must be competitive and to be competitive, required knowledge, skills, technology and enterprise, rather than unnecessary regulation and old-style institutions.



Kok: meeting with Blair on European agenda

Unity signal, page 17
Leading article, page 23



Tony Blair at Downing Street with finalists for the police bravery awards, presented by Cherie Blair last night

Work problems unite odd couple

STUBBORNLY high unemployment in Germany to be announced today will overshadow a summit in Bonn between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Tony Blair as Britain and Germany try to work out a common approach to a proposed employment chapter in the revised Maastricht Treaty.

German businessmen warned the Chancellor yesterday against signing a "superfluous and counter-productive" employment chapter at the Amsterdam summit later this month. The Federation of German Industry — echoing the views of other business lobbyists — declared that "an employment chapter will not create a single extra job."

The Chancellor, facing unemployment of around 4.25 million, nonetheless needs to demonstrate some dynamism on the subject if he is to win back Germans to the European cause. An opinion poll conducted by the Forsa Institute showed unusually strong resistance to the Chancellor's European strategy: 71 per cent of Germans now believe that Germany should not stick to the 1999 start-up date

Roger Boyes reports on a strange alliance born in a climate of shifting European priorities

for the Euro. Mr Blair — who is advocating more labour-market flexibility, increased competition and bureaucratic cuts rather than ambitious interventionist job creation programmes — thus finds a ready and eager ally in Bonn. Low-cost job stimulation — preferably in the form of pilot projects — and stronger co-ordination of national policies is the only kind of Amsterdam formula acceptable to Chancellor Kohl, and it seems that Mr Blair agrees.

By contrast, the opposition Social Democrats, who should be ideological closer to the Labour Government, want a far more ambitious European programme for jobs. The Social Democrat-nominated European Commissioner, Monika Wulf-Mathies, said Germany

was isolated in its resistance to the employment chapter. "We've got the wind in our sails now. Not only will we get an employment chapter in Amsterdam worth the name but leaders will also pass through some 80 employment pacts that we want to finance with the structural fund," she said.

The Social Democrats are making much of the disappointing May unemployment figures which were leaked yesterday. They show that unadjusted unemployment declined by around 90,000 — much less than normal for a period in which strong economic activity traditionally boosts the jobs market.

The theme of German isolation is now coming to dominate domestic public discussion and analysts point to the ironies occurring in the Anglo-German relationship since Mr Blair took over power. Britain, pitted against Europe for so long, gives the elusion of being in the mainstream, Germany, which has one of only two remaining conservative governments in Europe, has been beached by the changing electoral tide.

Prescott sets his sights on Railtrack profits

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK last night faced the threat of a twin squeeze on its £1 million-a-day profits after being heavily criticised for underinvesting in services.

The company disclosed a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £346 million, increasing the prospect that tougher sanctions, including fines and a windfall tax, could be imposed.

The first full-year profits announced since privatisation of the track and signal network provoked bitter exchanges between Railtrack and the rail regulator, who hinted that the company's existing licence will be amended unless the company improves its investment. John

Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, led demands for Railtrack to channel more of its profits into improvements, complaining that taxpayers deserved a better deal. Referring to the announcement of increased profits, he said: "I've made clear I don't think that's a good deal for the taxpayer. I'm looking at how I can improve the taxpayer's interest in that matter."

Commuters face strike

RAIL services on busy commuter routes could be affected by industrial action next week after train drivers voted to ban overtime. Members of Aslef on Connex South Central voted in a ballot by 94.4 per cent to take action after failure to reach a deal over hours and

working practices. The ban on overtime and rest day working will start at 0001 next Friday, threatening cancellations on Connex South Central, which runs trains into London's Victoria and London Bridge from Sussex, Kent and Surrey, including the Brighton line.

would insist on tougher regulation to ensure higher funding to improve services.

John Swift, the rail regulator, also questioned whether shareholders were getting "disproportionate benefits". Mr Swift, who has been ordered by Mr Prescott to take tougher action against Railtrack, also went further than before in suggesting that the company's existing contract could be altered. The regulator made clear that fines remained a sanction open to him if Railtrack failed to catch up investment.

Announcing an immediate review of Railtrack's performance, Mr Swift said: "There is no commercial contract that should survive unless it meets a public interest test. I am concerned that the improve-

ment in day-to-day performance may be costing funders of railway services too much. There is still a very long way to go for Railtrack to deliver on its investment obligations and thus secure the longer term health of the network."

Mr Swift made clear that the level of additional funding that Railtrack had been offered under the last Government now needed to be re-examined urgently.

He said that the review of the funding scheme, that had been due to begin later this year, would instead begin immediately. "I think it is timely for me to bring forward an investigation into how this performance regime is working."

City relief, page 27

Designer to aid of millennium show

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE designer Stephen Bayley has been picked to help rescue the troubled Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich, whose future hangs in the balance while Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, completes an urgent review.

Mr Bayley, founding director of the Design Museum in London, has begun work as creative director of Millennium Central, the government-owned body which is running the proposed show. Design contracts worth £30 million for the exhibition are being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Communities, under rules which insist

that all big public works are open to tender abroad.

Imagination, the London creative group which came up with the original blueprint for the year-long show, is still in daily contact with Millennium Central but its official role has yet to be confirmed.

Mr Bayley, 45, has worked with Sir Terence Conran and helped set up the design centre at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

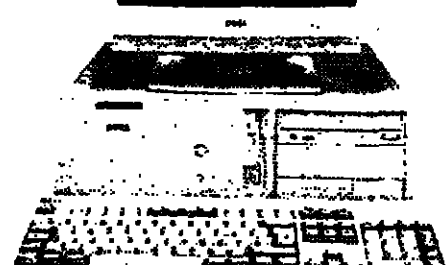
He said: "Ever since I first read about the Great Exhibition of 1851, I've been enthralled by the way successful exhibitions can change an entire nation's point of view."

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Aitken tells of shock over prostitutes allegation

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

Former Tory minister was asked by 12-year-old son: 'What's a pimp, Daddy?'

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative cabinet minister, told yesterday of his horror at being asked by his 12-year-old son, William, "What is a pimp, daddy?" The question followed Mr Aitken's receipt by fax of the first edition from page 1 of *The Guardian* of April 10, 1995, accusing him of supplying prostitutes to Arab businessmen.

Mr Aitken was with his family on a skiing holiday in Switzerland and asked for the fax to be sent after his govern-

ment press officer had alerted him by telephone of a "strong rumour" *The Guardian* had a big story about his business interests which they were to publish next day.

The then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who resigned the following July to fight the "scandalous allegations" told the High Court that he was "pole-axed" and in pain after reading the article headlined "Aitken Tried To Arrange Girls for Saudi Friends".

On the second day of his libel action against the newspaper and Granada Television, he said from the witness box: "It was almost the equivalent of having a heart attack in terms of the shock and pain I felt on reading it. I was so astonished to read on the front page of a serious newspaper an allegation of this seriousness that I knew in my heart to be untrue and I felt such pain because it was a sordid story."

head in my hands and saying to nobody in particular *The Guardian* have said that I am a pimp. I remember my small son said in a polite inquiry, "What is a pimp, daddy?"

He added: "I felt that *The Guardian* had moved from the vendetta they had been running for some time against me to all out war because these allegations were so serious and devastating."

Mr Aitken, 54, said he was also horrified to read that he

had "corruptly and improperly" engaged in clandestine meetings at his home in Lord North Street, Westminster with arms dealers whilst a minister of the Crown. He told Mr Justice Popplewell he had, in fact, scrupulously observed the document for newly-appointed ministers, *Questions of Procedure for Ministers (QPM)* since becoming defensive procurement minister in 1992. "The QPM makes it clear all private business must

stop as soon as you become a minister of the Crown," he said. "I believe I observed and kept it scrupulously."

He went on to describe his early morning return on April 10 1995 to London where he condemned *The Guardian* article as "an outrageous falsehood". Mr Aitken said: "I had a sleepless night once I had read the story and said to myself in the long dark night of the soul that I have got to stand up and fight. I have to

fight these lies and I will."

On the night of April 10 Granada TV, in its *World in Action* programme "Jonathan of Arabia" reported similar allegations to those in *The Guardian*, with which it had been collaborating.

Mr Aitken said: "I watched the programme. My worst fears were confirmed. Clearly this was a hatchet job. This was character assassination TV, not current affairs TV. There was no attempt at

balance or objectivity. It was 'Destroy Aitken Time'. He said that whereas *The Guardian* had made no contact with him for his reaction prior to publication of the allegations, David Leigh, a producer at Granada, had written giving him five working days in advance to respond.

Mr Aitken is suing both media organisations which claimed that his business career and fortune depended on his connection with the Saudi Arabian royal family. The defendants deny libel and will plead justification in their defence. The trial continues.

Pensioner died 'fighting off man who tried to steal his car'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A PENSIONER collapsed and died as he fought to stop a thief stealing his Lada car after getting lost in the back streets of Leeds, a court was told yesterday.

Stevan Popovic, 74, was kicked repeatedly and dragged along the road with his wrist trapped in the driver's window as his young assailant tried to drive off with his nine-year-old vehicle. He was eventually thrown clear and collapsed motionless in the road, a jury at Leeds Crown Court was told.

Three hours later, Mr Popovic, who had a heart condition, died in hospital. A post-mortem examination showed he had narrowed arteries. He had suffered eight fractures to his ribs and severe bruising, probably caused by the kicking.

Martin Bethel, QC, for the prosecution, said he could have suffered heart failure at any time and his death could have been "entirely coincidental". The struggle might not have been the only reason for his death, but "the Crown says it was the immediate and significant cause".

Clive Jones denies murder-

ing Mr Popovic in the Chapeltown district of Leeds on Easter Saturday last year. Jones, 26, from Leeds, also denies two alternative charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and assault with intent to rob.

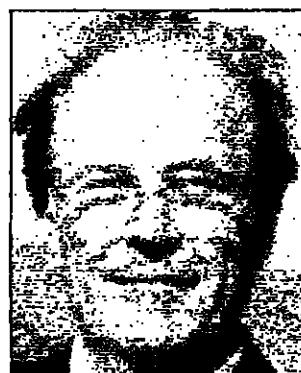
Mr Bethel said that Mr Popovic, who had left his native Yugoslavia to live in England after the Second World War, had driven to Leeds from his home in Oldham, Greater Manchester, to pick up a friend. They planned to go to a church in Leicester, but in Leeds he lost his way. He pulled into an alleyway to turn round and people in flats nearby heard shouting and a car horn blowing.

They saw an elderly man in the car struggling with a younger person who was shouting, "Give me your money or I will kill you." The attacker had a distinctive "pine-apple" haircut. Mr Popovic, a retired bus driver, was dragged from the driving seat and kicked with a series of "heavy and vicious blows". His assailant then got in the car and began to drive off. Mr Popovic had his arm inside and was pulled along.

The car was discovered abandoned several streets away shortly afterwards. A blue and white baseball bat which Jones later admitted was his was inside and his fingerprint was on a window. Jones was arrested three days later. He claimed he had come across the abandoned car and looked to see if he could steal the stereo.

But Mr Bethel said: "Why drop the car? It is much more consistent with somebody abandoning the car to get away from the scene as quickly as possible."

The trial continues.



Popovic was set upon after losing his way



Designs by Wayne Pinnock, left, and Sean McGowan at the Royal College of Art. "I just wanted to have a bit of fun," McGowan said



Student fashions a top design career in Paris

BY HEATH BROWN
FASHION EDITOR

ANOTHER young British design student is being tipped to become one of the top names in fashion after working with Karl Lagerfeld. Sean McGowan, 26, was hailed as the next Alexander McQueen when he staged his first public show yesterday at the Royal College of Art, which annually features the cream of Britain's young fashion design talent.

His skills were spotted last year by the fashion designer Lagerfeld, who invited him to work alongside him in his Paris studio after he won a design

competition. Eric Wright, Lagerfeld's personal assistant, explained how the designer was impressed by McGowan: "It is his energy, his being — he is very unpretentious, his proportions are very put together and he is a perfectionist in his work." Clothes in yesterday's college gala ranged from brightly coloured clubwear to ornate evening dresses in collections brimming with optimism. McGowan's tailored dresses and suits, with elaborate headgear, in dazzling black and white fabrics, stole the show and have earned him a place as a freelance designer on the Lagerfeld label as well as Chanel. "Each outfit

was very individual and I was aware the show was theatrical," McGowan said.

"I just wanted to have a bit of fun. I freak out when people call me the next Alexander McQueen. The collection was over the top and elaborate in black, red and white."

"It is my dream to work for myself, although it would be wonderful to be involved with Lagerfeld." He will return to Paris later this month to work for Lagerfeld and has "had other offers".

McGowan graduated in 1992 from St Martin's College of Art and worked in Milan and New York as a print

designer. He looks likely to follow in the footsteps of British designers McQueen and John Galiano, both of whom are among British-born fashion gurus who have made their mark on the international scene.

Kenzo, Cerruti, Versace, Nicole Farhi and Donna Karan representatives were among a large number of buyers at the show interested in spotting British talent. A spokesman for the show said: "The scene is getting better and better, especially over the last five years."

"Students are being interviewed for jobs right after the shows. Fashion is serious business."

Policeman unconscious after panda is stolen

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICEMAN was unconscious in an intensive care unit last night after being carried along on the bonnet of his own patrol car when two men seized it.

PC Gurdial Sidhu, 36, was in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, in a serious but stable condition as Scotland Yard launched an inquiry and tried to contact his wife in a remote part of India. The constable, who has two children from his first marriage, recently married again in India.

Yesterday, detectives were trying to piece together how the officer was attacked on a street in Notting Hill while he was out on patrol. The case is being treated as attempted murder. PC Sidhu was found unconscious with a suspected fractured skull by officers manning a police van he had called to the scene.

Police believe he was attacked after he stopped two men in a B-registration Austin Maestro van. He began questioning the driver about the van and documentation and made a number of checks on his radio to the Police National Computer. He called for the van, which normally means a policeman is about to make an arrest.

The men then attacked the constable and ran to his Metro panda. A witness, who watched the incident from the window of his home, said the policeman was driven 50 yards on the bonnet of his own car before being thrown into the road.

Deported Triad gang may face execution

BY OUR CRIME
CORRESPONDENT

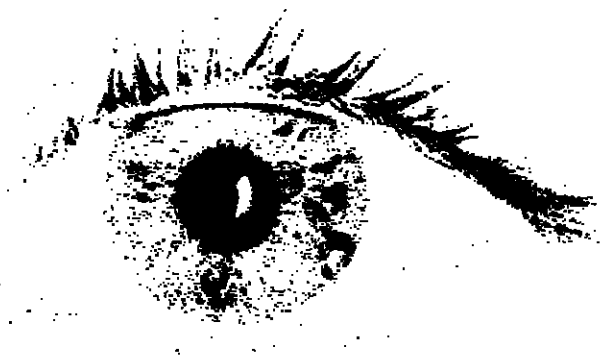
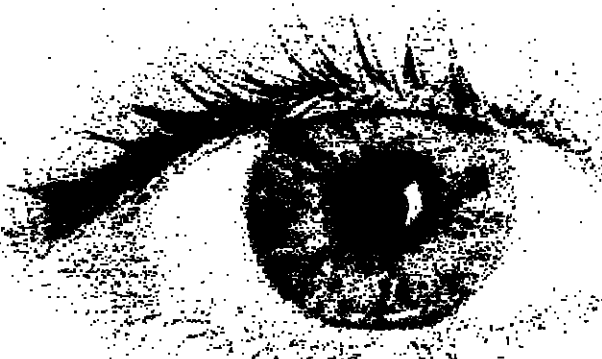
TRIAD gangsters who kidnapped a Chinese chef and held him captive shackled to a radiator were each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment yesterday at Southwark Crown Court. Judge Elfer, QC, who said he had been asked not to send the men back to China, where they could face execution, ordered that they should be deported.

The five men held Xiao Ming Cao, 25, for two weeks after seizing him off the street. He was forced to ring his wife at home in a remote corner of China to raise the ransom. Unknown to his captors, he managed to pass on information using a rare dialect they did not understand and a joint operation between Scotland Yard and Chinese police released him.

Yesterday police said that the gang had seized the wrong man but decided to go ahead anyway. Scotland Yard believes the gang had carried out a number of other successful kidnaps targeting other illegal immigrants.

Police said Mr Cao's family could not have paid the ransom, which began at £40,000. Jian Chen, 25, You Chen, 22, Um Y Tang, 36, and Li Peng, 19, all of Holloway, north London, and Liang Fan, 27, of Soho, central London, had all denied conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to falsify imprisonment, and conspiracy to blackmail.

Cao was routinely beaten as he talked to his wife to make sure she found the cash. He was starved and made to bark like a dog.



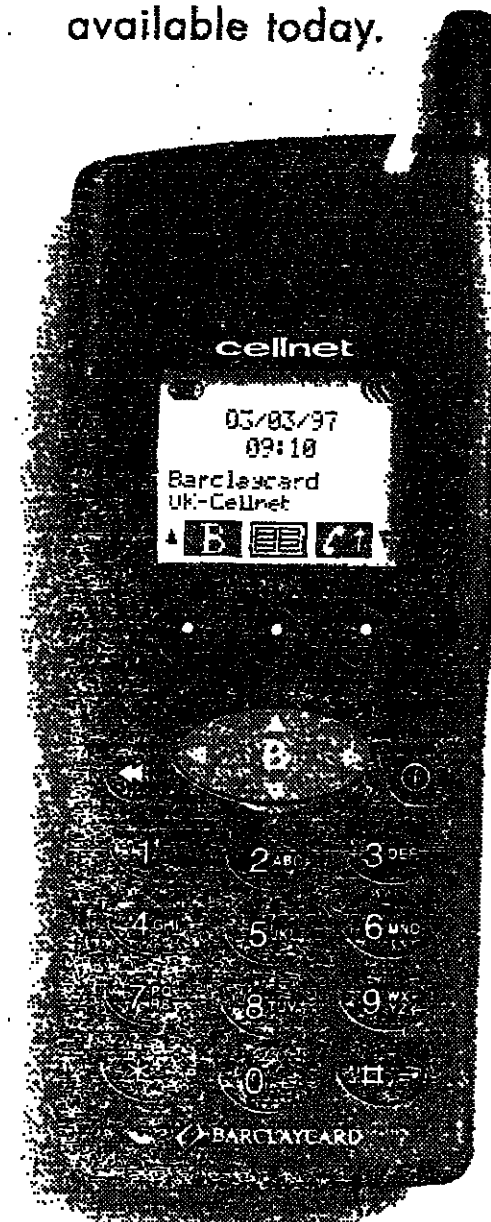
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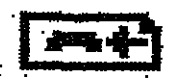
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Social services criticised for insufficient warning to family, Ian Murray and Daniel McGrory report

Mental patient killed mother and two girls after release

TWO small girls and their mother died needlessly when a former mental patient who was supposed to be looking after them set fire to their home, an independent inquiry has decided.

Only after he realised his fantasy to kill did police find that Darren Carr was a suspected violent psychopath who had been released into the community without supervision. The inquiry panel was "dismayed and critical" at the attempts made by social services to alert the single mother to the danger Carr posed.

The inquiry was set up in May last year after Carr was jailed for life for the manslaughter of Susan Hearmon, 25, and her daughters Kylie Marie Roberts, 6, and Julie Anne Lowell, 4. They suffocated in June 1995 after Carr set fire to a carpet of their home in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Professor Geneva Richardson, chairman of the panel, said: "He was a potentially dangerous young man but he

posed a diagnostic dilemma to the caring agencies. Despite the vulnerability of the family it was decided there were no child protection concerns. Within a month the family was dead."

She accused Oxfordshire social services of showing "insufficient rigour" in its efforts to trace Carr after he moved into Mrs Hearmon's home to look after her daughters. Social workers had been given the wrong house number and shelved efforts to trace him.

She said that when Carr asked doctors to admit him to a mental hospital in January 1995 she could be certain that a lack of beds influenced their decision to leave him in the community. Carr was "a potentially dangerous young man but who posed a diagnostic dilemma in the caring agencies; he could present himself very fluently and very coherently".

Although he needed treatment, no suitable beds could be found near his home at



Carr: sentenced to life for manslaughter

Bracknell, Berkshire. He had tried to kill his mother and threw a girl down a flight of stairs but police never charged him, so he had no record. Social workers lost touch with him because he gave no forwarding address when he left a special hostel.

The inquiry felt however that the existing regulations for controlling the mentally ill were also to blame. "There are

very clear limits to the ability of the mental health services to treat people with psychopathic disorders in the community," the panel reported.

"Once in the community Mr Carr was offered a generous programme of aftercare but he chose quickly to distance himself from it. He was free to make that choice because the law as it was in 1994-95 imposed no relevant controls upon him."

Carr had lived at Mrs Hearmon's home for six months after answering an advertisement in a shop window for someone to babysit in return for cheap rent. An epileptic and a loner, Carr was first arrested by Thames Valley Police in May 1993 when his mother called her after he tried to smash her head with a hammer.

He attacked her after she read his secret diary and asked what he meant by references to "the keeper" and why he intended to get "rid of all the trash in the world".

He was admitted to a psychiatric ward in the local hospital and heavily sedated after he told a nurse that he could hear the voice of a man inside his head and he felt the urge to hurt someone and "put them into a coffin". Compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act, he was sent to a private clinic in north Wales because there were no local beds available.

He was sent back to Bracknell in June, 1993, when Diane Carter, the community mental health team manager, realised he needed 24-hour supervision which was not available. She gave him cash and he went back to his mother, who let him in but barricaded herself in her bedroom.

A bed was found at the secure unit at Fairmile Hospital, which serves patients from Oxfordshire and Berkshire. In January 1994 he was released to the Knowl, a specialist hostel in Abingdon. That November when the compul-



Julie Anne, left, and Kylie died when Carr started a fire in their home

sory order under the Mental Health Act lapsed he moved into his own flat.

In January 1995 he saw Mrs Hearmon's advertisement and decided to apply for it. Her third marriage had just broken up and she agreed to take him in.

"This case is horrific and demonstrates once again that the community care crisis is

deepening," said Jayne Zito, who founded a trust after her husband was killed by a schizophrenic who had been released into the community.

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity Sane, said: "It beggars belief that a community care patient like Darren Carr, who in the view of the inquiry was a dangerous and unpredict-

able young man, should have been allowed to seek employment as a residential babysitter to two young children.

"Even more astounding is the justification for inaction offered by the social services who say his civil liberties allowed him to distance himself from their generous programme of aftercare."

Parents blame social services for tragedy

THE distraught parents of Susan Hearmon last night described the guilt and regret they will carry for the rest of their lives that they did not try to take their grandchildren into their care before their daughter employed Darren Carr.

Jean Foulsham said: "We tried to protect those children, who in their short lives were abused and beaten."

Two years before she employed Carr to take care of Kylie and Julie-Anne, Susan Hearmon had refused to allow her parents to see her daughters after a row. Mrs Foulsham, 49, blames Oxfordshire Social Services.

"We were trying to help Susan, who was an unfit mother, but her social worker told her what we said and Susan called us traitors." She



Susan Hearmon: had a violent personality

sat in silence yesterday as the official inquiry suggested no individuals could be blamed. "How many children have to die before someone loses their job?" Mrs Foulsham said.

She described how her daughter suffered from a violent personality disorder. "She was a difficult girl and it got worse after she gave birth to Kylie."

Susan had left school at 16 and a year later left home to live with Robert Roberts. A year after her daughter was born Mr Roberts died in a swimming accident. Six months later she married Robert Lowell in December 1990 and the couple had a

daughter, Julie-Anne in March 1991, but they separated three months later.

Her father, John Foulsham, 53, an electrical contractor, said: "At that time we had the two girls a lot because Susan could not cope, but she was panic stricken about them being taken away."

A neighbour had alerted social services in 1992 and the two girls were put on the "at risk" register. The woman, who did not wish to be named, described the squalid condition of the family's terraced home in Preston Street and told how when the girls would forage through dustbins for scraps of food.

"They were always thin and pale and very quiet, but one day I found them picking chips out of our waste bin. When I said I would speak to their mother they begged me not to. I did not know how to protect them, or what to do."

In September 1994, their daughter married Michael Hearmon, but the couple soon separated.

Darren Carr answered Mrs Hearmon's advertisement for a live-in childminder in March 1995. Pamela Lennox, a neighbour, said Carr was a regular fixture at Thameside School most afternoons to meet the girls. "But then one day Kylie told me she was afraid of Carr but would not say why," Mrs Lennox alerted teachers at the school.

The girls had been taken off the "at risk" register in 1994, but once again officers from that social work team were called in. When Carr next collected the girls from school he was questioned by child protection officers but they took no further action.

On June 9, 1995, they again closed the file on the Hearmon girls. Seventeen days later Carr poured petrol in the hall of Preston Road and a massive explosion tore through the property.

Mrs Foulsham said: "We never had a chance to say goodbye to our grandchildren and we are haunted by the thought of what we should have done to save them."

Bus driver guilty of knife attack

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTACKER wielding a knife who lost a battle with a woman banker on the doorstep of her Kensington home in London was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Adrian Rajaratnam, 25, a bus driver with a history of mental illness, was remanded by Judge Gerber for reports before being sentenced.

Rajaratnam, who is from Welling, south London, is said to have a depressive illness. He was convicted of false imprisonment but cleared of possessing an offensive weapon after search failed to find a knife in the area of the attack.

During the trial Miss Callenbach, 28, a trader with JP Morgan, described how he grabbed her around the throat after following

her from an Underground station last September. As she walked down the steps to her home, Rajaratnam suddenly rushed after her and barged through the door as she opened it.

Miss Callenbach told the court that he grabbed her, put his hand over her mouth and pulled her backwards. He had a knife in his other hand.

Rajaratnam told Miss Callenbach not to scream but she sized him up and realised he was not much bigger than she was. She told the jury: "My immediate reaction was to fight back."

She pushed her attacker through the open door and into the street. He ran away but was chased and arrested by an off-duty policeman.



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Experts dismiss confessions from death-case nurses

By Shirley English

LAWYERS representing the two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia yesterday produced "dramatic new evidence" which they claim will destroy the case against the pair and could lead to their release.

Three United Kingdom medical experts have studied photocopies of the confessions extracted from Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, on which their British lawyers say the whole case against them is based, and have ruled that the documents are "totally unreliable and totally unsafe".

The examination of the documents and the discrepancies, in an internationally-recognised "content analysis", appears to back up the nurses' claims that they were subjected to threats of physical and sexual assault by Saudi police.

The experts claim that the confession evidence was "coerced and compliant" and bears all the hallmarks of being untrue.

Their reports have been sent to the Saudi legal team and copies will be made available to the judges when the trial, adjourned for three weeks, resumes on June 15. McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, and Parry, 38, from Hampshire, could face the death penalty if found guilty of the murder of fellow nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55, at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran where they all worked. They have repeatedly denied the charge. If convicted they could be beheaded.

The three experts have not

been named, but are said by the nurses' lawyers to be a professor of forensic medicine, a professor of psychology and a leading consultant psychiatrist. As well as the confessions, the expert have seen copies of the post mortem report on Miss Gilford. They are all prepared to travel to Saudi Arabia to give evidence in person if necessary.

The nurses' families, with their British legal advisers, Peter Watson and Rodger Pannone, said yesterday the women had been "lifted" by the latest developments. Stan McLauchlan, father of Lucille, said: "We feel that this is a major breakthrough and we hope they [the Saudi judges] will take it on board. In our opinion it destroys the confessions that were made."

Mr Pannone said that since the start of the trial the confessions had been the only evidence produced of the nurses' guilt. "We have seen no other evidence, therefore if the confession evidence fails, we would hope they would be released. This is a matter the judge is going to rule on either on the 16th or shortly after."

Mr Watson said the British legal team and the experts had been "surprised" by the lack of forensic evidence, given the nature of the murder. Miss Gilford was stabbed 13 times, beaten and then suffocated.



Ann and Stan McLauchlan: "It's a breakthrough"

Small Faces star dies at 51 after long illness

By Emma Wilkins

RONNIE LANE, guitarist and songwriter with the 1960s supergroups the Small Faces and the Faces, has died aged 51 after a long battle against multiple sclerosis.

Ronnie Wood, of the Rolling Stones, who shot to fame in the Faces with Rod Stewart, said: "He's in a better place with old mates like Steve Marriott and Ian Stewart, and no doubt they are busy organising themselves into a fantastic band."

Marriott was Lane's songwriting partner in the Small Faces. He died in a fire at his Essex home six years ago. Long-time Rolling Stones piano player Stewart, who also collaborated with Lane, died in 1985.

Other tributes came from friends including Sir Jimmy Savile and Francis Rossi, lead singer with Status Quo, who both paid tribute to Lane's bravery.

The great affection in which Lane was held by his colleagues in rock music was illustrated when a host of stars appeared in a concert he helped to organise at the Royal Albert Hall in 1983 in aid of Action Research for Multiple Sclerosis. Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Bill Wyman, Charlie Watts and Jimmy Page all appeared, and to a great cheer Lane played a few chords.

Obituary, page 25



Lane before the 1983 Albert Hall concert with some of the rock stars who appeared

Problem family to move into the Street

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

CORONATION STREET, the model of northern life, is to introduce its first out-and-out problem family in the latest move to halt sliding ratings.

The Battersbys will feature a mother and father who have done time in jail and children whose pastimes include shoplifting and playing truant. They will have a clapped-out car and ghetto-blasters, and Mr Battersby will attempt to sell stolen goods to other residents of the street.

Although the storyline is likely to anger traditional fans of Britain's longest-running soap opera, producers believe it is essential to propel the programme into the 1990s and compete with its streamwise rival, *EastEnders*.

Brian Park, the producer of *Coronation Street* and nicknamed "The Axe man" because he has written out so many longstanding characters, said: "The Battersbys are an exciting injection of fresh blood into the Street." He said they followed in the tradition of earlier characters, "balancing the mix of comedy and drama for which *Coronation Street* is justly renowned."

The new family, who will be seen on screen next month, will move into Don Brennan's old house. They have been rehoused by the council, who have bought No 5 after Brennan was sent to a secure mental hospital.

The character of Les Battersby, played by Bruce Jones, spent six months in prison for handling stolen property. He has also done six months' community service for burglary and was bound over to keep the peace and fined £100 for threatening and abusive behaviour.

His wife, Janice, played by Vicky Entwistle, is described as a "loudmouthed machinist" at Mike Baldwin's factory. She has been in prison for fraud, fined for shoplifting and given six months' community service for causing an affray.

Leanne, Mr Battersby's daughter from his first marriage, has a "perchance" for alcohol and cigarettes and has been charged with threatening behaviour.

Professor Paul Bew asks us to make clear that he did not say that famine relief for Ireland during the 1840s (report, June 2) amounted to £50 million. The figure given was closer to £10 million, and covered the period of the administrations of both Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell.

Wrong number saves pensioner

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN'S intuition helped to save the life of a pensioner who dialled her telephone number in mistake for a friend's after collapsing at home.

Karen Christian, 24, from Southampton, was enjoying a quiet evening at home when her telephone rang. The caller sounded upset but hung up when she realised she had a wrong number.

Despite hearing the woman mumble that she was all right, Ms Christian rang the police and ambulance service. When they did not seem interested, she used BT's recall service, dialling 1471 — to find the woman's number. She got through to Vera Middleton, 88, who had collapsed with stomach pains and had tried to ring a friend for help but was in so much pain that she had misdialled.

Ms Christian coaxed the address from Mrs Middleton, found a map and jumped into her car. She reached the house in five minutes. The front door was unlocked and Mrs Middleton was slumped in her chair.

She was taken to Southampton General Hospital, where surgeons carried out emergency surgery on a perforated ulcer.

Mrs Middleton's daughter, Janet Browning, said: "There is no doubt that Karen's actions saved my Mum. The doctor told me if Mum had not got to hospital that night and into the operating theatre for a perforated ulcer she would not be with us now."

Mrs Middleton is making a good recovery and has been visited by her rescuer in hospital.

Ms Christian said that, when the telephone rang, she "agonised" for about five minutes, but something — call it a woman's intuition if you like — told me that something was wrong. I just trusted my feelings and acted on them."

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Straw plans curbs on 'advisers' who dupe immigrants

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to curb "advisers" who prey on ethnic minorities by offering expensive and unnecessary advice on immigration and asylum. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is planning to regulate the hundreds of consultants after complaints from MPs whose constituents have paid large sums for help in dealing with immigration officials.

Mr Straw made the pledge yesterday as he announced the ending of the controversial "primary purpose" immigration rule. The rule allowed immigration officers to refuse entry to citizens from outside the European Union who wanted to marry a British citizen if they thought that the main purpose of the marriage was to settle in Britain.

The move against "advisers" comes after it was disclosed that some were charging high fees simply to take application documents to offices in Croydon, south

London. Others posed as experts but gave worthless advice or set up offices to take on hopeless cases.

Mr Straw said: "There is a problem with unqualified immigration advisers. They take large sums of money off people to pursue bogus and frankly completely unmeritorious claims. These advisers, so called, are making a killing out of this, persuading people to pursue bogus applications."

Mr Straw is to publish a consultation document later in the year and is studying ways to regulate the industry, which could involve a system of licensed practitioners who would have to meet minimum standards or a register of a number of immigration advice bureaux — suggested in 1993 but never implemented.

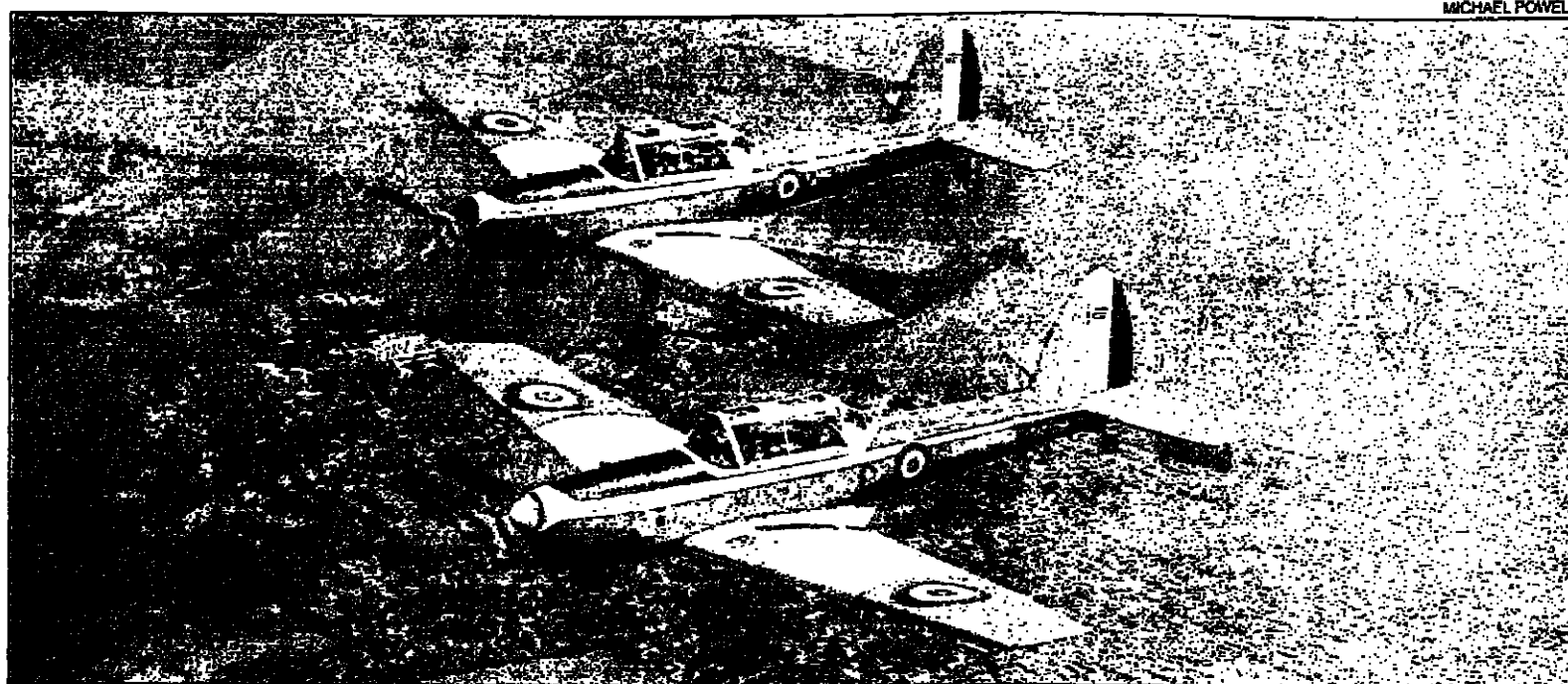
Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, welcomed Mr Straw's pledge. "A huge number of vulnerable people

end up being given wrong or unnecessary advice for huge amounts of money, sometimes running into hundreds and hundreds of pounds," he said.

The abolition of the primary purpose rule could allow about 1,000 people refused entry because of it last year, and who are currently appealing against the decision, to enter the United Kingdom.

People seeking to enter the country will still have to show that the marriage is genuine and they intend to live permanently as man and wife; both parties to the marriage must have met and they must show that they can maintain any dependents without seeking public funds. Officials will be able to make spot checks at their home for a year.

Mr Straw disappointed immigrant welfare groups by leaving the burden of proof on applicants for entry to show that they could meet the criteria.



The RAF Chipmunks team under Squadron Leader Tony Cowan, below, have met chill winds but warm greetings from their former enemies

Russian welcome for Chipmunk pioneers

TWO RAF Chipmunks flying around the world are now more than halfway across Russia and have been battling against strong Siberian winds on their pioneering trip (Michael Evans writes).

Squadron Leader Tony Cowan, leading the team of three pilots, telephoned *The Times* from Siberia after a 500-mile flight east from Omsk to Kemerovo, before departing for Krasnoyarsk, where the Russians used to have an early warning ballistic missile station. How-

ever, with the Cold War over, Squadron Leader Cowan and his team have been warmly welcomed by the Russian authorities every time they have landed for fuel and food.

Squadron Leader Cowan, 51, said: "At one of the airports the wind was so strong we were unable to land on the runway so the Russians arranged for us to land on a grass strip." The RAF team — Squadron Leaders Cowan, Cedric Hughes, 63, and Bill Purchase, 60 — has a Russian

navigator, Major Yuri Vostoknutoy, 39. The piston-engined Chipmunks are the first foreign air force craft to fly across Russia since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The trip, named Exercise Northern Venture, began on May 20 and is expected to take six weeks, with a total flying time of about 156 hours. Last night the Chipmunks arrived at Bratsk to put them more than a quarter of the way around the world, and are expected to reach Alaska within a week.



Safety review after six air-display crashes in a year

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

SAFETY at air shows is to be tightened after six crashes in the past year. The Civil Aviation Authority has begun a detailed review of safety.

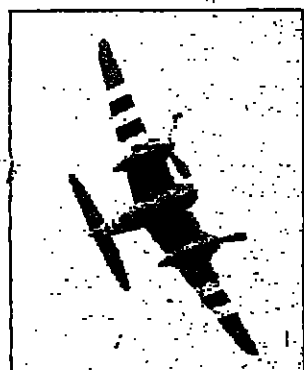
One of the crashes, last July, killed the pilot and navigator of the last airworthy Mosquito at a show at Barton airfield, Manchester. The crash was caused by an engine problem first identified during the Second World War, but the remedy had "largely been forgotten" by engineers, air accident investigators said yesterday.

The carburettor in the vintage wooden-framed aircraft cut the fuel flow, causing one of the engines to stop briefly

and threw the Mosquito into a series of uncontrollable turns that ended in a high-speed crash into a wood. The dead men were Kevin Moorhouse, 50, the pilot, who was recognised as one of the most skilled display pilots, and Stephen Watson, 33, of Wirral.

The accident report said that videos taken by spectators showed a puff of smoke and a bang as the aircraft pulled up into a steep turn and performed a "wing-over". "Early on in the Second World War, it was found that Merlin-powered aircraft were disadvantaged when taking evasive action due to a tendency for the engines to cut out under negative G conditions," it said. A technical "fix" was introduced.

But investigation of the carburettors on the crashed Mosquito showed that neither unit met the specified fuel flow requirements under negative G conditions. "The Merlin's reputation for cutting under negative G conditions had endured since the Second World War. Curiously, the fact that a successful carburettor modification had been developed and incorporated on the subject aircraft to remedy the problem had largely been forgotten," the accident report says.



The Mosquito seconds before it crashed

Restricted Services Licences

Invitation to Apply

The Independent Television Commission is inviting applications for licences to provide restricted services.

There are two types of Restricted Services Licences. The first is to cover a specific event and will be for a term of 56 days. The second is location-based and will be for a two year period, renewable subject to competition and frequency availability.

An ITC Guidance Note specifying the terms and conditions relating to the award and provision of restricted services together with supplementary documents are available from the ITC Information Office at the address below.

A £500 fee must accompany applications. If a suitable frequency is identified, an additional £1,500 is payable. Annual fees of £2,225 will also be payable for ITC and Wireless Telegraphy Act licences.

Applications for event-based Restricted Services Licences will be considered on receipt by the ITC. Applications for location-based Restricted Services Licences must reach the ITC no later than 5pm on 30 September 1997. Thereafter applications for location-based RSLs will be considered approximately every six months.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Independent Television Commission 33 Foley Street, London W1P 7LB.



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Empty government offices could cost taxpayers £500m

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Government has empty offices and buildings around the country equivalent to a development 50 per cent bigger than Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

The National Audit Office is concerned that, if the accommodation is not sold or re-let, the cost to the taxpayer could rise to £500 million. Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, suggests in a report to MPs that the total bill could be higher if the Government has difficulty raising cash to buy out its commitment from long property leases.

Already this year the taxpayer will have to pick up a bill of about £93 million. "It is a matter of regret that the Exchequer receives no value from the considerable sums being spent on empty govern-

ment offices," Sir John says. Among the expensive vacant buildings in London is Century House in Victoria, the former home of M16, which has moved into a plush new complex on the South Bank of the Thames. With 18,400 square metres, it is one of the largest empty properties in the capital. The former M15 premises in Vauxhall Bridge Road are also empty.

Another eyesore is the 6,500-square metre Archway Tower on Highgate Hill, north London, former home of the Benefits Agency. Other unused properties are the Health Department building in Southwark, Inland Revenue offices in Whitechapel Road in the East End, and Employment Service premises in Wimbledon.

The level of empty office

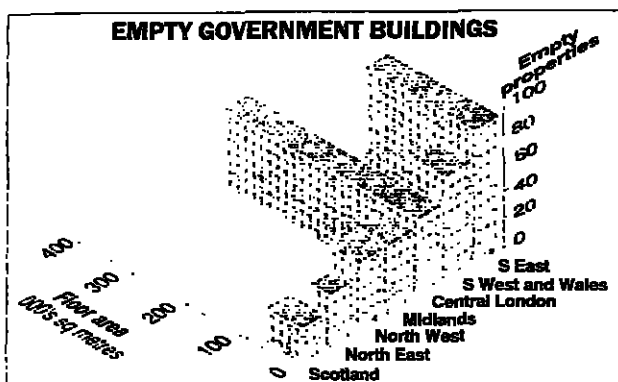
space more than doubled from 1992 to 1996 as the Tory administration drove through its Whitehall reforms; there are 384 empty properties totalling 330,000 square metres. The Civil Service was slashed down as Ministers pressed through privatisation programmes, moved offices out of London to the regions and created government agencies and market-testing.

The problem identified by Sir John is that even though the property market has been on the upturn, there is little call for second-hand office space, particularly of old, low quality buildings in London such as those vacated.

Sir John is concerned that the Government owns only 40 per cent of the buildings freehold and their best estimate value is £80 million. Of the 60 per cent on lease, Sir John believes they could be harder to dispose of particularly if rents are above market value and if landlords refuse to allow sub-letting or will not allow the Government to buy out the remainder of the lease.

The government property services agency hopes to dispose of most properties within four years.

Peter Killfoyle, junior Public Services Minister, said he would keep a close interest in how the agency disposed of the properties.



Customers picking strawberries at Chivers fruit farm in Impington, Cambridgeshire, where the fruit has been grown on straw bales at waist height, to prevent pickers from having to stoop. The fruit is cultivated in grow bags on top of the bales

RAF man survives as chute fails at 3,000ft

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF parachutist escaped serious injury yesterday when his main parachute failed to open at 3,000ft after a freefall jump from 12,000ft.

Warrant Officer Alistair MacDonald, 50, had only seconds to jettison his main parachute and open his reserve before landing. WO MacDonald, who has completed 2,500 jumps, was last night recovering in hospital from minor back injuries after landing heavily in the drop zone at Keevil, Wiltshire.

The incident happened as he and other parachute instructors from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire were practising high-altitude low-opening (HALO) jumps from a C130 Hercules aircraft.

An RAF spokesman said: "The HALO exercise is a well-established fall and is no more risky than any other type of exercise. Incidents such as this where the main parachute fails to work properly are rare but it is one of the acceptable risks that parachutists take."

He added: "His reserve parachute would have provided a fair bit of deceleration but he would certainly have hit the ground harder than he was expecting. His injuries could have been far worse and he could even have been killed."

WO MacDonald, who is based at the parachuting school at RAF Lyneham, was taken to Salisbury District Hospital and treated for bruises to his back.



Mr Glyn Jones

Our report (May 30) of the conviction of Mr Glyn Jones, the leading sheepdog trialist and current Welsh champion, for ill-treating five collies at his North Wales farm at Penmachno, was mistakenly accompanied in our earlier editions by a photograph of Mr Glyn Jones.

We are glad to make it clear that Mr Glyn Jones, pictured above, who is also from North Wales, has never been convicted of anything. His distinguished career as a sheepdog trialist spans 50 years, during which he and his family have bred, trained and sold sheepdogs worldwide. As a leading authority on the subject, he has written books and made videos about sheepdogs; he has won numerous competitions and has appeared frequently on television.

We apologise to Mr Glyn Jones for our mistake and for the embarrassment inevitably caused. We have agreed to pay him a sum by way of compensation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver paid nephew to take blame

A businessman was jailed for a year yesterday for trying to escape a fine by paying his nephew £250 to take the blame for jumping a red light. Judge Hutton told Brian Goddard, 45, at Gloucester Crown Court: "This is a very serious offence because it strikes at the very heart of the criminal justice system."

Goddard, of King's Stanley, Gloucestershire, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice after it came to light that his nephew, Anthony Webb, had been fined £60 and received three penalty points in his place.

Alcohol fault

The alcohol found in a Power Rangers frozen children's drink came from secondary fermentation caused by a production line fault, Magna Specialist Confectioners, the makers, said. The drinks have been withdrawn.

Robber dies

John Morris, 26, suspected of having paramilitary links, died in hospital after being shot in the head and abdomen by police during an armed robbery at a newspaper depot in Dublin on Wednesday. Two men were arrested.

£285 fruit juice

Two Soho bouncers were jailed for nine months for terrorising a pair of German football supporters into paying £285 for two fruit juices. Juna Dominguez, 35, and Sidney Price, 47, had denied blackmail.

Car-crash vicar

The Rev Bruce Harrison, 47, vicar of Glasdale, near Whitby, lost control of his car at 90mph, which he blamed on job stress, including a computer course. He kept his licence but was fined £160 for careless driving and speeding.

Early curtain

The London West End musical *The Goodbye Girl*, starring Gary Wilmot, is to close on June 28, after just two months. The London revival of *Steaming*, Neil Dunn's 1980s all-women play, is also to close early, on June 14.

Warwick silver

The Earl of Warwick sold family silver for a total of £24,805 at Sotheby's. Madame Tussauds, which owns Warwick Castle, bought several items, including a George II silver gilt almoner's dish, to be displayed at the castle.

Bit of a flutter

A bat which had apparently been hibernating in a fruit machine flew out when a landlord hit the jackpot and collected his cash. Denis Nname, of the Ugly Duckling, in Dover, asked the RSPCA to escort it from the premises.

Buoyant pound helps keep food prices down

By Robin Young

THE strength of the pound has contributed to lower food prices in the shops. Market analysts reported yesterday that prices are falling by up to 1½ per cent a year. Fresh fruit and vegetables are generally lower in price than last year, and there has been a sharp drop in the price of lamb. There is also plenty of cut-price champagne about.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: rump steak £6.99 a kg, Scotch beef mince £1.69 a lb, lemon and pepper escalopes £1.99 for 284g, frozen vegetarian ready meals £1.29 each, thin and crispy garlic mushroom pizza 99p, strawberries £1.49 for 450g, mangoes 29p each.

Budgens: Welsh lamb whole/half leg £5.69 a kg, chicken breast fillets £4.99 for 625g, roast turkey breast 69p ½ lb, large open mushrooms 75p for 227g, sweet pickle 37p for 312g, Belgian buns 79p for two.

Co-op (CWS): pork boneless leg steaks £4.39 a kg, minced lamb £1.99 for 400g, Red Beauty plums 99p a kg, Thai land mixed chillies 89p a pack, traditional salad 99p for 250g, closed mushrooms 99p lb, Muel & Chandon champagne £14.99.

Harrods: peppered ham on the bone £1.89 for 100g, tomato and mozzarella quiche £1.20 a slice, three-peppered terrine £1.49 for 100g, tomato and mozzarella salad £1.59 for 100g, vegetarian ciabatta £2.99 each.

Iceland: smoked salmon steaks £2.99 for 680g, lemon sole fillets £3.49 for 600g, Lincolnshire sausages £1.69 for 16, turkey breast steaks £3.49 for 700g, garden peas 79p for 907g, Black Forest gâteau 99p for 5-6 portions.

Kwik-Save: Ross economy burgers 39p for four, Heinz

WEEKEND SHOPPING

salad cream 43p for 285g, Heinz tomato ketchup £1.09 for 1135g, Coca Cola £1.49 for 6 x 330ml.

Marks & Spencer: lime and coriander mini chicken fillets £2.49 for 230g, salmon cucumber and pasta salad £2.49 for 230g, two cream doughnuts 99p, smoked salmon £2.99 for 100g, Chinese mini fillets £2.49 for 230g, Oudinot champagne £9.99.

Sainsbury's: rump steak £7.49 a kg, Scottish salmon steaks £3.32 for four (570g), tagliatelle carbonara 99p for 300g, large avocados 69p for two, cherry tomatoes 59p for 250g, satsumas 99p a kg, Picota cherries 99p for 450g, plums 99p kg, nectarines 32p each.

Sainsbury's: pork boneless leg joints £2.99 a kg, turkeys 87p a kg, Jersey Royals 19p a lb, red plums 69p a lb, yellow/orange peppers £1.29 a lb, vegetable balti £1.49 for 350g, herb bread 69p for 170g.

Somerfield: Whole/half lamb leg £5.38 a kg, mixed kebabs £1.99 for 340g, French-style pork steaks £2.29 for 283g, Chinese leaf 79p each, mangotut £1.19 for 200g, potatoes £1.19 5kg, red seedless grapes 99p a lb, plums 89p a lb.

Tesco: beef forerib £3.99 a kg, half leg of lamb £5.75 a kg, pork chops £4.49 a kg, cod fillets £1.95 a lb, plaice fillets £2.99 a lb, broccoli 69p a lb, carrots 52p for 1.5kg, sliced runner beans £1.29 for 300g, white potatoes 54p for 2.5kg, conference pears 39p a lb.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus beefburgers 79p for 170g, par-bake vegetable pizza £1.99 for 410g, German salami 95p for 100g, Maris new potatoes £1.39 for 2.5kg, limes 19p each, radishes 45p a bunch, plum tomatoes 75p a lb, French sunflower honey £1.35 a lb.

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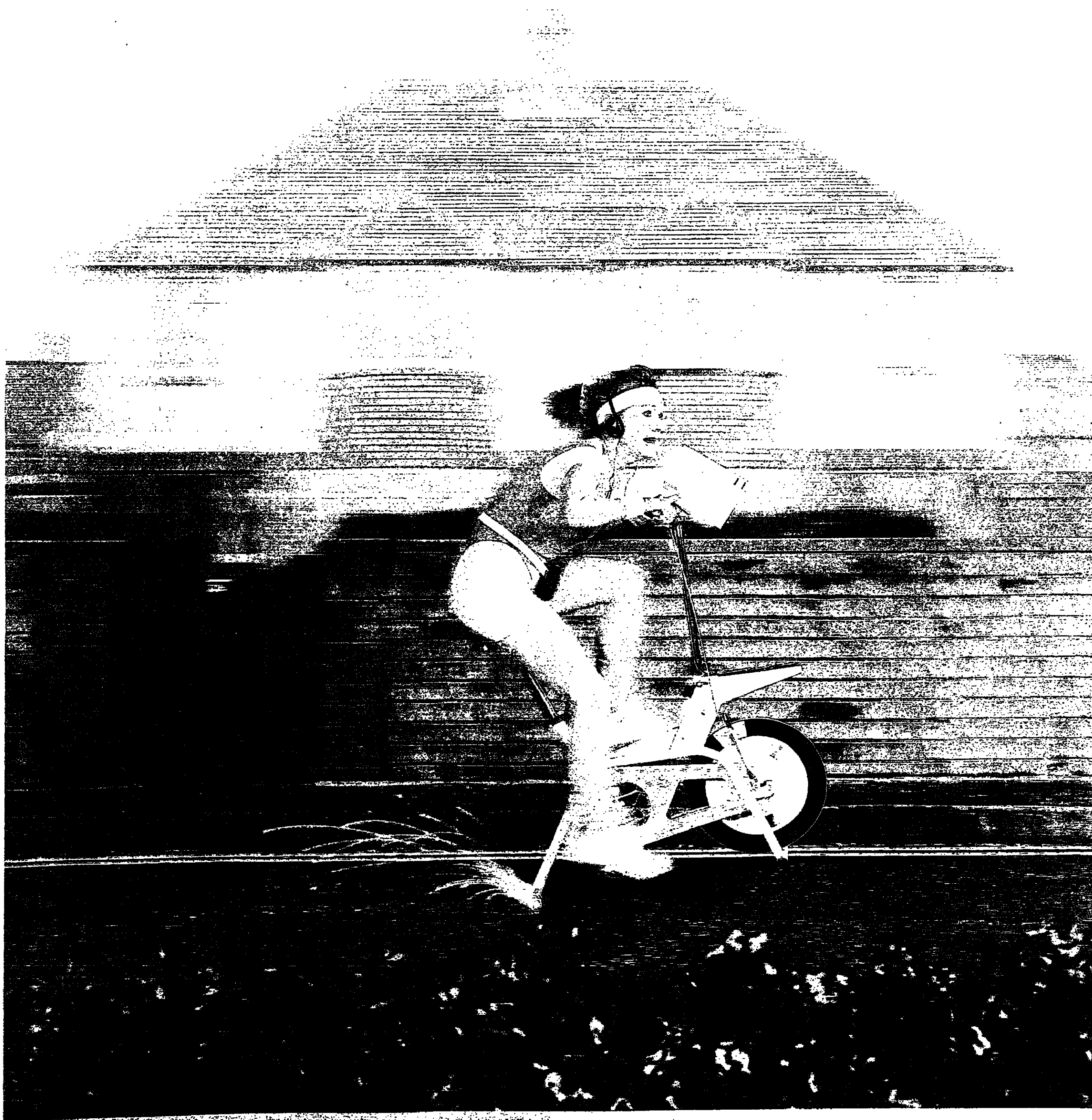


Mr Glyn Jones

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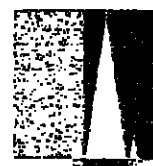
WEEKEND
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Hurry. Don't miss the June 10th deadline.

By now, Norwich Union members should have received a mini-prospectus and application form to buy shares at a discount in the Members' Offer. Completed application forms must be in by 2pm on Tuesday 10th June.



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Why eco-friendly Prescott won't be getting on his bike

IN THE course of a busy day spent extolling the virtues of leaving the car at home in favour of greener forms of transport, John Prescott explained that one eco-friendly option was no longer open to him. The Deputy Prime Minister's bicycle has been stolen.

Mr Prescott had been on the radio in the morning explaining the need to improve the public transport system. He said that he intended to use his own car less and, to prove the point, he later leapt onto the Underground. During the journey, on which journalists had been invited to accompany him, he said that he had given up his Jaguar now that he had a government one which

Damian Whitworth joins the sweltering scrum on the London Underground as the Deputy Prime Minister revels in taking the press for a ride

came with a chauffeur. One wondered what he had done with his Jag. Was it now languishing in the garage in Hull?

"Why?" he asked suspiciously. "Do you want to pinch it?" This was the first of a number of those Prescott answers that take the questioner completely by surprise and in which he specialises. He started to explain — "I only say that because last week someone broke

into the garage" — but then went off in a different direction. It wasn't until a cycling journalist accosted him later in the day that the full domestic saga came out.

"Are you a cyclist?" the man demanded of Mr Prescott. "I was until somebody broke into the house and pinched my bike last week," he replied.

Ears pricked up. "Actually it was my son's mountain bike. I'm not a

great user of bikes myself, but I did use it, occasionally."

What he insists he does use regularly are buses, Tubes and trains. "I probably take more public transport than any other member of the Government," he said. He set out to prove it by taking the Tube from Westminster to South Kensington, where he was to address the Royal Geographical Society.

Just how spontaneous his Tube jaunts are is open to question. I know he uses public transport because friends who live round the corner from him have seen him getting off the night bus in Clapham on the way to his London flat. Sadly, now even this great inde-

pendent spirit is being tamed by the party machine. The Tube jaunt was arranged two weeks ago, a harassed press officer let slip.

Mr Prescott and the media scrum squeezed onto a train. He talked about the problems of changing for the Northern Line late at night at Victoria. "Is the last one still 12.20?" he asked a London Transport minion. "Sometimes you have to wait 20 minutes. That's the problem we have to deal with. My bus, the No 88, takes me from doorstep to doorstep but late at night you don't know whether you've missed the night bus or not and the last Tube has gone."

He had last used the Tube a week

ago. "It's damned warm down here," he said. He chatted cheerfully to passengers about transport policy. One man even managed to get a word in edgewise and ask where investment cash was going to come from. Mr Prescott raised his voice above the rattling train and explained his policy. After a couple of minutes of polished argument the man declared himself a convert.

On the Tube back to the office Mr Prescott was full of mischief. He maintained that John Major had approached him the other day in the Commons. "Because I'm in charge of rainwater he asked if I could do something to make sure it didn't rain during the cricket."

Transit system uses rail and road

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE developers of a rapid transit system in Northampton say it combines the best elements of bus and light rail.

Their system uses environmentally friendly gas-powered rapid transit vehicles (RTVs), which travel at speeds of up to 50mph on a track along disused railway lines. Once in town, the RTVs run along the existing road network and use transponders to alert traffic lights to change in their favour.

The scheme aims to cut journey times in the town by half and to reduce reliance on private cars from 90 to 60 per cent of all journeys. It could be in place by 2000.

The system will not require public subsidy, but will be financed principally through contributions from developers who own land that would benefit from the service.

Alex Robinson, chief executive of Rapid Transport International, the private company behind the scheme, said that Northampton had one of the highest rates of car use per person in the country, making it ideal for the system.

The town also has an existing network of disused railway lines, which can be converted into special guideways, avoiding the need to widen existing roads or build new ones. Northampton Borough Council has still to grant planning permission for the scheme, but is supportive of it.



John Prescott taking the Underground to South Kensington yesterday to show he practices what he preaches

Labour promises to get motorists back on the buses

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS face higher taxes and more grueling trips through British cities under plans to ration road space in favour of buses.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that the Government will be publishing a Transport White Paper next year on how to cut pollution, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and improve the quality of urban life. Central to the plan is increasing the "speed, efficiency and safety" of public transport. He also pledged to pump more investment into the London Underground.

Mr Prescott, the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, said that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was studying taxes to

make using the car more costly and that his department was looking at re-regulation of city bus companies to bring them back under tighter local authority control.

The Government was determined to increase the number of people using buses. In some cities, such as London, buses were running at 25 per cent of capacity. "We have got to look at our existing capacity and use it more efficiently," he said. Cities such as Manchester and Sheffield were proving that people would switch from cars to public transport if they could rely on it.

Mr Prescott said "road rationing", in which the space available for private cars is squeezed to one lane through-

out cities to create extra bus lanes, was high on the agenda. He urged the public to judge his commitment to the environment and reforming public transport over the next five years on "whether I get the buses going faster". He added: "That means in some cases more regulation, in some cases more investment."

The Deputy Prime Minister was speaking at a meeting organised to mark World Environment Day. It comes in advance of a special General Assembly of the United Nations, dubbed Rio II, called to debate how far nations have implemented environmental agreements reached in Brazil five years ago.

The Government has pledged to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 20 per cent by 2010. Officials say that half the cuts will have to come from transport, the fastest rising sector for emissions. Other areas include the reduction of energy consumption by homes and business.

Mr Prescott admitted that the Government's pledge to reduce VAT on domestic fuel went against its ambitious global warming targets. Officials estimate that the cut will increase emissions by 0.6 per cent. "It is a dilemma," he conceded, saying that they had to balance the needs of the poor and the pensioners with the needs of the environment.

The Deputy Prime Minister also signalled tougher green taxes on industry. "Environmental taxes can encourage industry to find cost-effective, innovative ways of reducing pollution," he said.

The Government would also at the special New York General Assembly be pressing nations hard to control pollution of the seas and protection of fish stocks. Mr Prescott, a trained diver, said: "The oceans are so important to the environment."

Tax changes could accelerate reforms

By MICHAEL BINYON

TRANSPORT analysts have warmly endorsed John Prescott's proposals to boost the uses of trains, buses and bicycles, although several suggested that Labour's goal of an "integrated" public transport system would be hard to achieve.

"If integration means simply making sure that the buses arrive at the station before the trains leave, then that seems fairly obvious," said Terence Bendixson, an independent policy analyst. More effective would be a range of measures to encourage cycling, walking and the use of buses. Small steps could do much: making cycleways on roads rather than displacing pedestrians, encouraging park-and-ride schemes, helping bus companies to update their fleets.

"There is a hell of a lot that

can be done with buses," he said. "They are still the key to good public transport in cities."

He said that tax reforms would also do much to change habits. At least ten measures, ranging from cutting concessions on company cars to increasing petrol tax above the rate of inflation and making resident parking charges dependent on car size, could be introduced to encourage people to use public transport instead of cars.

Lynn Sloman, of Transport 2000, a lobby encouraging rail use, said Labour had also to change the "crazy" tax anomalies that encouraged car use, such as taxing any employees offered incentives to travel by bus or bicycle but allowing free, untaxed parking space at work.

Deaths on the road continue to decline

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people killed on Britain's roads last year was the lowest since records began.

The 3,598 road deaths in 1996 continued a trend that has cut fatality rates by almost a third in 15 years. The number of serious injuries last year also fell, to 44,473.

The new figures strengthen Britain's claim to have one of the lowest road death rates among industrialised nations, less than half that in France, the United States and Germany, and almost five times lower than in Portugal.

However, the number of minor injuries, at 272,231, rose 4 per cent on the 1995 figure, and child casualty figures rose by 2 per cent to 44,385. Baroness Hayman, the road safety minister, said: "Any reduction in the toll of death and injury on our roads is, of course, welcome." But further action would be taken to reduce slight injuries. "We will be working hard to push these figures down further through safer roads, safer vehicles and safer driving."

Her comments came after ministers unveiled plans to tackle urban speeding, seen as one of the main problems in improving road safety.

The figures suggest that the Government is on course to achieve the target, set in the mid-1980s, of reducing road accidents by a third by the year 2000. Ministers attribute the downward trend to a combination of safer cars, the wearing of seat belts, and less drink-driving.

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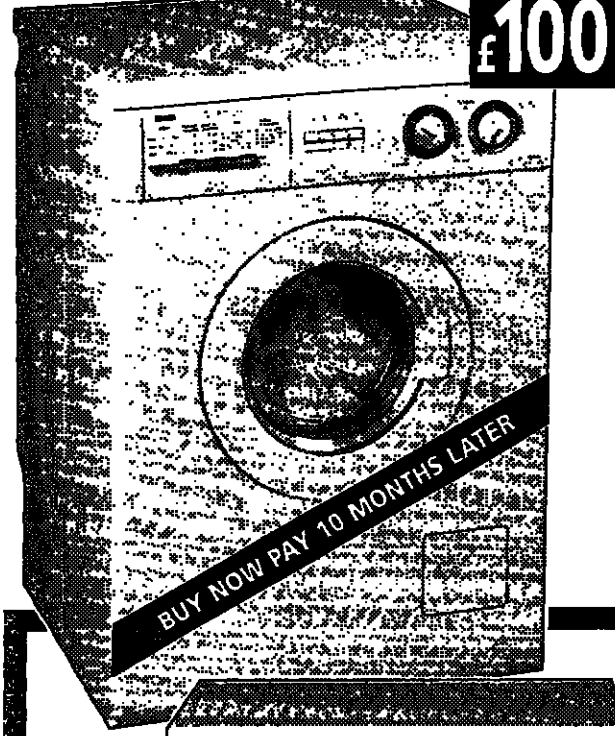
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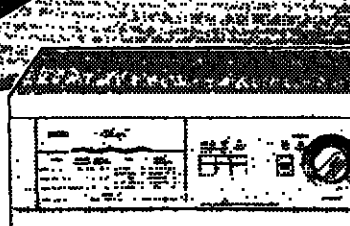
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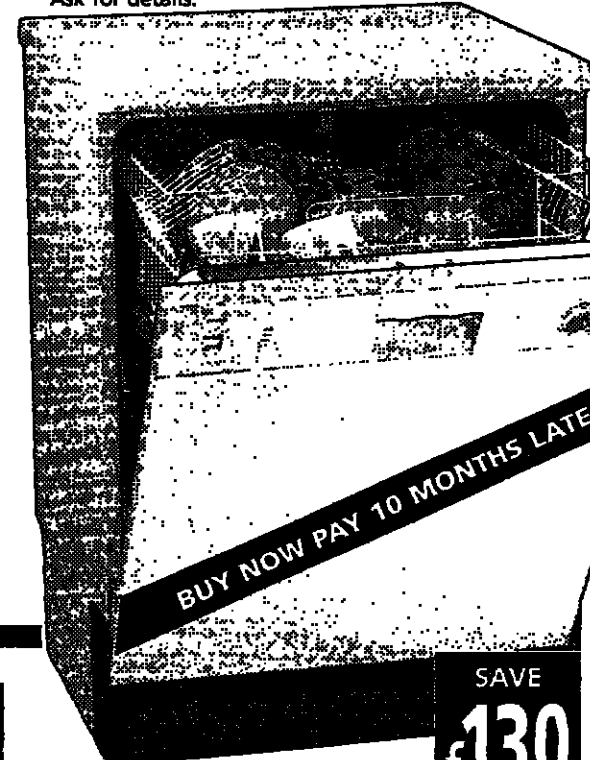
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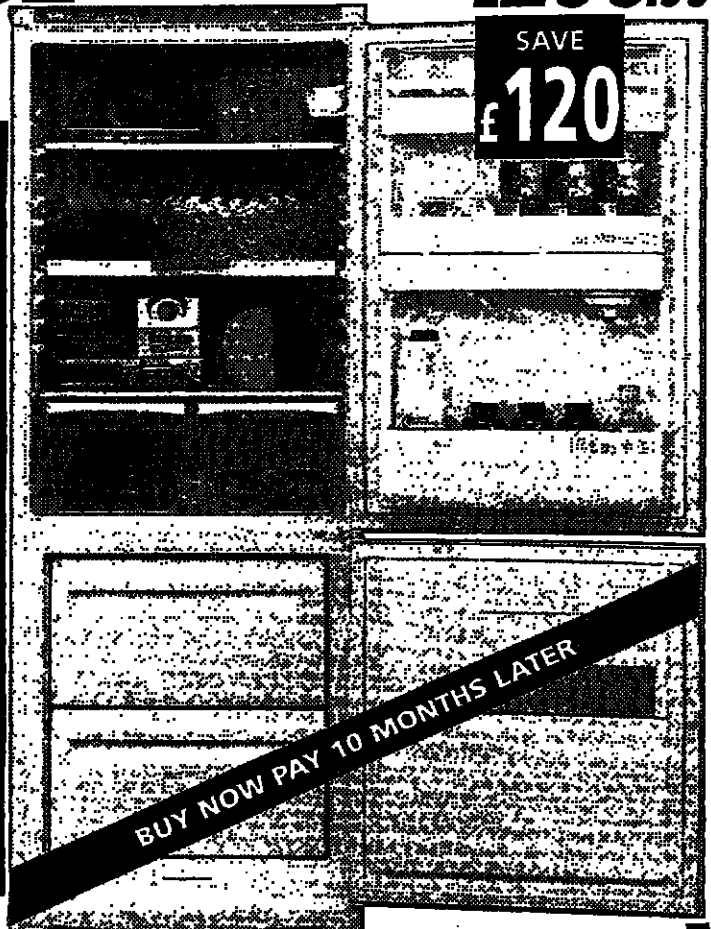
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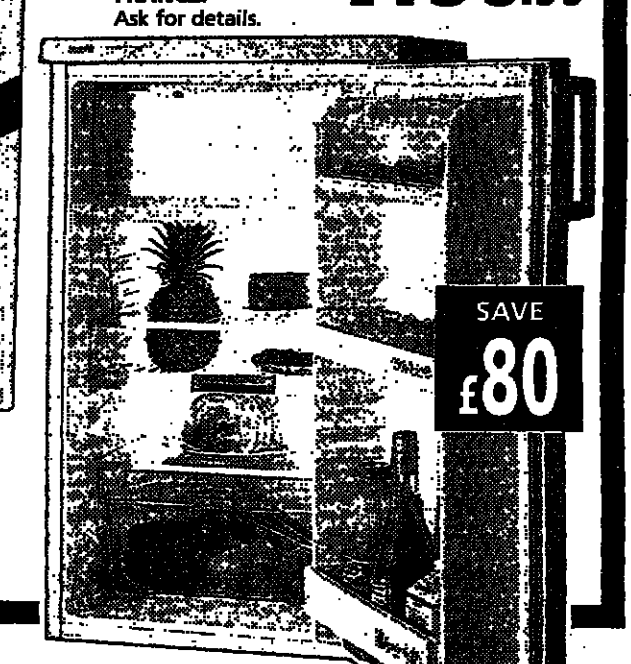
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Family likely to benefit again from electronic publishing deal for archive that cost the nation £13m

Churchill papers to go on sale as CD-Roms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Churchill papers, bought by the nation two years ago with £13 million of lottery money, are to be put on CD-Rom for sale to the public in a move expected to reopen debate about the purchase price.

The papers were bought from a private family trust set up by Sir Winston Churchill in 1946 for the benefit of his heirs. Now the Churchill family is likely to benefit again, as the sale involved in retaining copyright in about a third of the papers in the archive.

Although the nation now owns all the papers, it will benefit only from royalties on state papers — about a third of the archive — which it already owned. Copyright to the other two thirds is owned by the 3,000 authors of the various documents and letters.

Plans for the ambitious project, which are still to be completed, mean that the 1.5 million items held in the Sir Winston Churchill Archive

Trust at Cambridge will become widely available, including in libraries. But the electronic publishing deal — described as a copyright nightmare — has involved months of negotiation between the Churchill family, the Churchill Archive Trust, Primary Source Media, publishers in Reading, Southampton University and Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Piers Brendon, keeper of the archive, said: "The trustees are very much aware that this is a sensitive issue, because the nation has paid huge amounts to obtain these papers, so whatever is done has to be seen to be done in a sensible and responsible way."

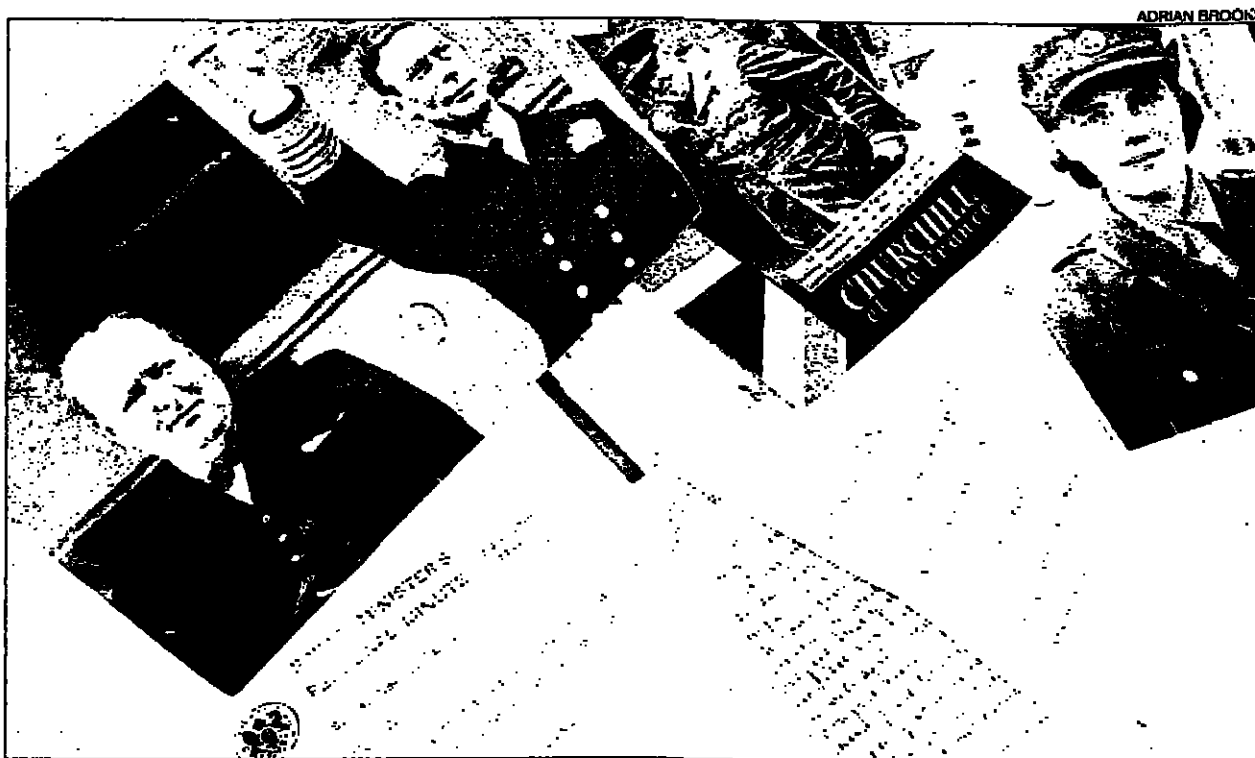
The papers, in 3,000 boxes, relate to the whole of Churchill's life and range from tear-stained letters home to his

mother and his school reports, to his notes for wartime speeches.

Proposals for the deal were put forward to the Sir Winston Churchill Archive trustees for their consideration last week. Andreas Whittam Smith, the chairman, said that, if they were acceptable, an announcement could be made by autumn.

Jim Wretham, head of copyright at HMSO, said the nation would benefit to the extent that HMSO will charge a licensing fee for the use of the Crown papers in which it has copyright and will derive a percentage royalty from the publishers' income. Besides the family, however, the main beneficiaries are likely to be the publishing company and, to some extent, a team at Southampton University, which is putting the documents on to microfiche and digitising them for electronic use.

There are expected to be



Documents from the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust, which will be more widely available on CD-Rom

various levels of publication, from more scholarly CD-Roms for libraries, to ones aimed at the general public, containing those papers with most popular appeal. No prices have yet been put forward, but Encarta, a popular CD-Rom encyclopaedia

from Microsoft, sells for £49.99.

Mr Wretham said the great advantage of the deal was that people, in particular researchers, would have easy access to documents which otherwise required painstaking examination. At present anyone

wanting to see the papers must visit the archive centre or travel to exhibitions of the papers. A big exhibition at the John Rylands Library in Manchester runs until September 6.

An estimated 5,000 people saw the London exhibition in the Public Records Office museum between June and October last year. A further 2,000 saw the papers when they were made available at the archive centre in January this year. Other exhibitions are planned for Wales and Scotland.

Colditz prisoner's letters open a door on his life

BY JOHN SHAW

A BUNDLE of letters from an officer imprisoned at Colditz Castle during the Second World War has attracted the interest of historians.

The collection of more than 50 letters and postcards was acquired by the Norfolk Record Office from a book dealer who is believed to have obtained them during a house clearance. They detail the experiences of Lieutenant Geoffrey Ransom, from Holt, Norfolk, who later became an architect.

Dr John Alban, the county archivist, said yesterday: "These letters are the raw material of history, but they leave a lot of unanswered questions and we would like to know more about him to build up a complete picture."

Lieutenant Ransom's unit in the war is not known, but he was captured in 1940 and was held initially in Oflag 7C at Laufen. He was moved to the maximum security Colditz Castle in 1941 for unexplained reasons — probably an escape attempt — and stayed there until it was liberated in 1945.

The officer wrote home in August, 1941: "I am still fit and cheerful. I have been here for three weeks now and have not regretted it once. The atmo-

sphere is quite different. Laufen was highly organised, but here, by comparison, we can do what we like." Dr Alban said the optimistic picture needed to be viewed through the screen of wartime censorship and the wishes of the prisoners to allay relatives' fears.

In another letter, he described the differences between prisoners. "The average age is about 25. No one wants quietness, order or peace and that does not seem to go down well with people when they get over 45."

As the war lengthened, the letters reflected the monotony of daily life. They brightened up D-Day. He wrote to his parents: "You can start steaming a Christmas pudding up. It looks very much as if I shall be with you to help you eat it."

Lieutenant Ransom, married and went into practice in London after the war, but there the trail goes cold.

The posthumous Victoria Cross won by a Royal Navy petty officer at Gallipoli in 1915 is to be auctioned. Billy Williams, 35, accepted a place on the collier SS River Clyde as an able seaman so that he would be among the men who stormed the beaches.

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Hague secures backing of supermarket chief

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Michael Howard's flagging leadership campaign claimed an important breakthrough yesterday when two of Stephen Dorrell's key lieutenants announced they were backing him.

As the battle for votes on the Centre-Right intensified, William Hague enlisted Archie Norman, the MP who transformed the Asda supermarket chain into a market leader. The executive of Huntingdon Conservative Association, whose MP is John Major, has also voted unanimously for Mr Hague.

But Peter Lilley appeared to have lost ground. The decision of David Faber, a grandson of Harold Macmillan, to go into the Howard camp was a serious blow for him. Mr Lilley's supporters had assumed Mr Faber was in the bag. Simon Burns, who was also one of Mr Dorrell's few supporters, has also joined Mr Howard.

John Redwood also secured two new valuable public endorsements, with the promise of more today. The fightback by the Centre Right came 24

hours after Kenneth Clarke scored a propaganda coup with the decision by Stephen Dorrell not to contest the leadership election.

Mr Howard also released the names of three further new supporters, including John Taylor, a former minister, and the veteran Eurosceptic Sir Richard Body. The former Home Secretary, who claimed he was in second place behind Mr Clarke, said: "I am confident that I can make up the gap before the end of this contest and beat Ken Clarke in the second or third ballot."

On top of Mr Norman's support for Mr Hague, David Prior and Tim Lawton, two newly elected MPs, also endorsed him.

Mr Norman, who wiped out Asda's £1 billion debt, is tipped as a future Tory leader. He will be asked to advise on the re-organisation of the Conservative Party machine. "I will be prepared to offer whatever help I can on party organisation to whoever wins the election," he said. "But I am convinced that the election of William Hague in its own

right would create real excitement and galvanise the party." Mr Hague will show off his prize signing at a high-powered breakfast meeting of industrialists this morning.

Meanwhile, Mr Redwood won the backing yesterday of Nicholas Winter, the veteran right-wing MP, and Andrew Robathan, who had been widely tipped to join the Hague campaign. Mr Robathan succeeded Nigel Lawson as MP for Blaby, where constituency activists voted overwhelmingly for Mr Redwood after he appeared in a debate with the other candidates.

Mr Robathan said: "I was influenced by the constituency vote but I was looking for somebody with leadership potential. I think John Redwood has the potential to be a great leader."

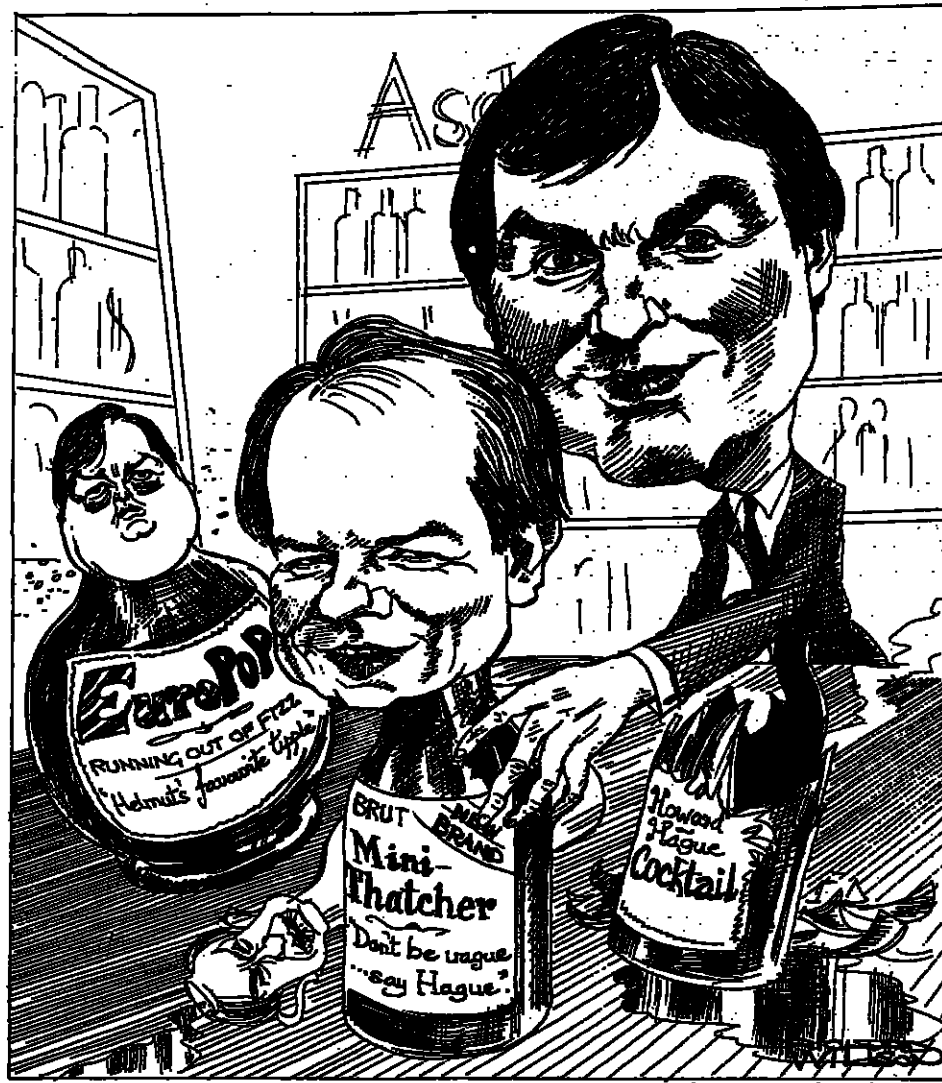
As nominations closed yesterday for the first round on Tuesday, the issue of Europe once again provoked a renewed clash between Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood. Only days after suggesting that

the single currency should be delayed Mr Clarke, in an interview in *The Spectator*, said: "If the criteria were met I would consider taking us in, providing it was in the national interest. We must not be bullied by the right wing into ruling it out."

But Mr Redwood said the only one way to restore unity to the party was to accept that a Conservative government could never take Britain into monetary union. "The only way to end the Conservative civil war is to settle which side has won," he said.

While he wanted to see pro-Europeans such as Kenneth Clarke in his Shadow Cabinet they would have to accept his leadership on the single currency. He would not seek to gag backbenchers who still supported monetary union. But unless they ended the conflict the party would have "all the charm and straightforwardness of a Balkan battlefield".

In his *Spectator* interview, Mr Clarke demanded action to prevent an "organised faction" in the Conservative Party in future.



Labour is criticised over sale of Blair speech

BY ANDREW PIERCE

COPIES of Tony Blair's speech on welfare reform have been sold to lobbyists to raise money for Labour Party funds, it was disclosed yesterday.

Tory MPs last night questioned whether Civil Service rules had been broken because the speech was delivered in Mr Blair's capacity as Prime Minister and not as party leader. It was the latest instalment in the controversy about the new Government allegedly blurring the line between party and Whitehall.

Mr Blair's speech, which was delivered on a rundown south London council estate, was faxed from Downing Street to Labour Party headquarters. The party's corporate affairs department released the text on its commercial subscription service. The party, having faxed the speech to its clients, sent hundreds more by post the next day.

The commercial subscription service, set up by Labour 12 years ago, provides lobbyists, commercial companies, and charitable institutions with copies of party speeches and policy documents. Now that Labour is in government, the rules have changed. The party leadership is trying to decide what is party political material and what is categorised as government material.

The decision to put the speech on to the commercial subscription service was taken by Mary Bruce, the corporate relations officer. Lobbyists are among her biggest clients and are charged double the rate of charitable bodies.

Sir Archie Hamilton, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, said there should be an investigation.

A spokesman for the Labour Party said: "We will review what we provide to subscribers now that we are in government. In the past everything could go out, but the boundaries will change."

Mr Blair urged the Cabinet yesterday not to "lose track of the big picture" amid signs that Labour's honeymoon with the voters is persisting.

He is the most popular Prime Minister in history, with an approval rating of 82 per cent, a Gallup poll for *The Daily Telegraph* said. In another indicator of the Government's popularity, more people are claiming to have voted for the winning side than actually did.

Marking Labour's first five weeks in office, Mr Blair yesterday urged Cabinet colleagues not to get so engrossed in the business of governing that they forgot about communicating with the public.

UK party in squabble over plan for merger

BY JAMES LANDALE

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

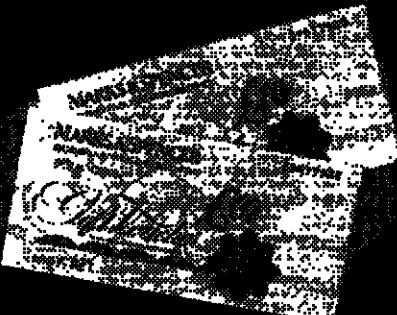
Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being submerged into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampshire.

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons: debate on governance of London; backbench debate on bed blocking in Essex. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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Labour is criticised over sale of Blair speech

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

BT school Net plan put back by Oftel action

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH Telecom and the Government cancelled a planned joint announcement yesterday on BT's plan to connect schools to the information superhighway after learning that Oftel, the telecoms regulator, had not yet approved the deal.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, and David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, were to reveal BT's plans to connect every school to the Internet at a public ceremony at a London school, Government sources said. The announcement was to be the result of Labour's commitment, made at the 1995 party conference that, if elected, it would lift the ban that prevents BT from using its network to broadcast entertainment services. In exchange, BT agreed to connect schools, libraries, colleges and hospitals to the superhighway at no charge.

It is understood that BT learnt last week that Don Cruickshank, Oftel's Director-General, was not yet ready to approve BT's connections proposal on competition grounds. Government sources said the Education Department was surprised and somewhat angered by Mr Cruickshank's disclosure. As a result, the Vallance-Blunkett schools announcement was cancelled. BT declined to comment.

Mr Cruickshank yesterday confirmed that BT's proposal was under review and that competition issues were at the heart of the matter. He said: "We must ensure that schools get the services they need at the price they can afford. But we also need to make sure that they have a choice of services."

Oftel, he said, is to publish a consultative document in July on the BT proposal and any alternatives. In January, the cable companies offered to connect schools to the Internet for £1 per pupil per year.

The Education Department did not publicly reveal its disappointment that it and BT could not make their planned announcement. Mr Blunkett said that Oftel's decision to consult industry on BT's proposals and move as quickly as possible "is good news for schools and shows we are making real progress towards our ambitions for a National Grid for learning".

The Government is thought to be concerned that a lengthy review process will delay the schools connection effort. It had hoped that the first schools would be connected to the Internet in time for the autumn term.

Oftel is concerned that BT may have an unfair advantage because its network is so much

more extensive than that of the cable companies. Oftel also wants to compare the prices that BT may charge for access to any services. BT's pricing formula is thought to be similar to the cable companies' £1 per pupil proposal. BT and the cable companies do not want to connect schools out of pure altruism. They realise, as Mr Cruickshank noted, that children, if exposed to their products and services, are likely to become loyal future customers.

In a separate development, figures released yesterday by Oftel reveal that the majority of residential consumers have derived little benefit from almost £2 billion of British Telecom price cuts since the early 1990s.

BT, under an Oftel-imposed price-cutting formula, has been reducing overall prices between £400 million and £500 million a year since 1991-92. But the company, which is free to choose where the price cuts are implemented, has ensured that its business customers received most of the benefits.

Some 80 per cent of the 22.6 million residential customers saw their bills decline by only 1 per cent, before adjustments for inflation, since 1991-92. Their average quarterly bill, including line-rental charges, is now £44. The highest spenders in the residential market derived the most benefit from the price cuts. Their bills fell by almost 20 per cent over the five-year period, taking their average quarterly bill to £30. By comparison business customers are estimated to have seen bills fall 40 per cent.

BT directed most of the price reductions at business customers because the business market has been under the greatest competitive threat.



Sir Robert Horton revealed a 27 per cent increase in profit at Railtrack, which is paying 10,000 members of staff free shares worth £1,000 each

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Railtrack rose 12p to 658p yesterday as the City dismissed fears of a draconian government clampdown on its profits. This was despite the track and station operator coming under fire for delivering debut annual profits of £346 million, up 27 per cent.

In one of its heaviest days of trading since joining the market last year, 7.34 million Railtrack shares changed hands. Analysts said the profits did not rank as excessive in spite of an outcry over their growth rate. One said: "People who think

City relief takes the brake off Railtrack

Railtrack is making too much money simply to do not understand business. It has margins of 14 per cent while utilities are making 40 per cent." In this financial year profits are expected to grow only 4 per cent, to £360 million. John Edmonds, chief executive, admitted that the company is some £10 million behind its target to refurbish stations after difficulties on agreeing contracts. However, he said it has so far spent £100 million more than the budget laid out by John Swift, the regulator. He said: "We are spending

£4 million a day at the moment. The regulator knows what has been agreed: we simply cannot spend £400 million in one year. If you play with gross numbers, like he does, you can make up any story you like."

The company, under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Horton, has awarded 10,000 of its staff free shares worth £1,000. The dividend is 22.1p (20.6p), with a final 14.8p. Earnings edged to 58.4p (53.8p) a share.

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Channel Tunnel passenger figures prompt City concern

By JASON NISSE

THE City is increasingly concerned about the £4.4 billion refinancing of Eurotunnel and the planned £1 billion flotation of London & Continental Railways after passenger figures for May indicated both could miss traffic targets included in the Eurotunnel restructuring document only last week.

Any delay to next year's flotation of LCR, which runs the Eurostar train and is backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group as well as London Electricity and SBC Warburg, will put back the construction of the fast link to the tunnel, jeopardising Eurotunnel's long-term prospects. The link will need £4 billion of private finance expected to be raised through a £1 billion float and £3 billion loan from banks.

The traffic figures issued yesterday by Eurotunnel show that 491,000 people travelled on Eurostar last month, a 15 per cent increase on May last year, making a total of 2.18 million people taking the train through the tunnel this year.

The "downside case" traffic projections in the Eurotunnel prospectus, provided by SNCF, of France, show Eurostar needing to carry 6.7 million people this year to meet targets, a 37 per cent increase over 1996.

Yesterday City analysts said they doubted this figure could be met, even though three additional Eurostar trains will operate on the route from next month. "It depends on how good a summer they have, but it looks like they will be lucky to get much more than six million passengers this year,"

said a leading Eurotunnel follower.

In the short term Eurotunnel receives a minimum usage payment from LCR whatever the traffic figures. However, a condition imposed by the banks on the £4.4 billion refinancing of Eurotunnel's debts is that it meets the traffic target included in the prospectus.

In addition, LCR may find it difficult to float next year if traffic figures fall short. A spokeswoman for LCR said that it was on target for a flotation next spring.

"The important figures to focus on are the yield from the passengers," she said, "and we do not release those figures." Eurotunnel shares fell 1p to 63p yesterday, matching an all-time low.

Simon rallies support for single market

A NEW report co-authored by Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, yesterday called on member states to concentrate on completing the single market (Alasdair Murray writes).

The report says that the failure to finish the single market is harming competitiveness. Europe, it says, should not let the political debate over monetary union "obscure" the benefits of a single market.

It adds that the single market is becoming overburdened with legislation, while some sectors, such as energy and telecoms, have not yet been sufficiently liberalised.

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Markets expect to see base rate rise

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND PHILIP BASSETT

FINANCIAL markets are poised for interest rates to rise today, despite retail sales figures out yesterday showing slower high street growth last month.

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee began its inaugural monthly meeting yesterday afternoon. A conclusion is expected by lunchtime today. Most economists believe the Bank will use its new powers to raise rates a quarter point to 6.5 per cent.

The stock market could also be unsettled today by strong US employment data, which would point to a rise in rates soon in America.

But the distributive trade figures, produced by the Confederation of British Industry, showed retail sales growth halving in May to its lowest level since October 1995.

The net balance of retailers

reporting a rise in the volume of their sales fell back sharply, from 42 per cent in April to 21 per cent last month. Most sectors, with the exception of grocers and durable household goods, saw sales slow. Furniture retailers and footwear sellers reported a fall in sales.

But the quarterly figures pointed to continued growth in sales and the CBI said businesses remained optimistic about the short term.

Sudhir Junankar, associate director of economic analysis at the CBI, said the data coupled with the prospects of tax rises in next month's Budget meant that "interest rates can be left on hold for the moment". But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said most of the data published in the past month pointed to a base-rate rise today.

The decision to force Danish banks to pay VAT on contracted-out services such as cheque processing or payment clearing. This ruling would have cost banks and insurance groups in the EU dearly as most financial services are zero-rated for VAT, so the banks could not claim the money back. VAT on contracted-out services would have cost over £300 million.

However, yesterday the court threw out the Advocate-General's ruling.

Nationwide 'carpetbaggers' state their case

By NATHAN YATES



Boarding party: Andrew Martin, left, George Jones and Michael Hardern

DISSIDENT members of the Nationwide Building Society yesterday launched their campaign to be elected to its board, in a move that could spell the beginning of the end for mutual building societies.

The members, spearheaded by Michael Hardern, a seasoned "carpetbagger", are pledged to force through the conversion of the Nationwide into a plc and give qualifying customers a bonus of about £1,000. After the flotation of the Halifax, the Nationwide is Britain's biggest building society, with assets worth nearly £40 billion. The current board

is committed to retaining its mutual status.

If elected, the five pro-conversion campaigners will implement a radical programme of reforms, which would include takeover bids for the remaining top 20 mutuals. Mr Hardern predicted that his programme would unleash a bidding war for smaller societies that would wipe out mutual ownership.

Campaigning under the slogan "If you want £1,000 vote for us", Mr Hardern proposed a restructuring of the society's existing business, with a move towards telephone services

and closure of some branches. The "Members for Conversion" action group has sent 25,000 free "Carpetbaggers' Guides" to Nationwide members, and more than 1,000 individuals have made donations to the campaign.

A Nationwide spokesman said the dissidents are not "suitably qualified" to run a large institution. They include a retired undertaker, a computer specialist, a management consultant and a secretary. Mr Hardern is a freelance butler.

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Court overturns VAT ruling

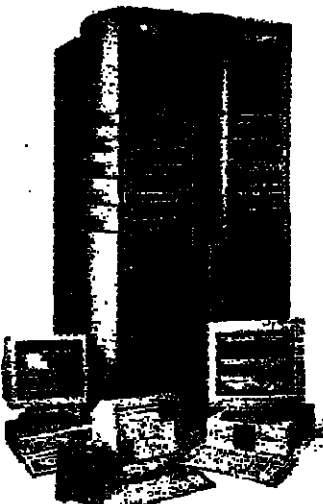
By JASON NISSE

THE European Court has handed the financial services industry a £300 million a year boost by overturning a controversial VAT ruling brought by the Danish tax authorities.

The Advocate-General had supported the decision to force Danish banks to pay VAT on contracted-out services such as cheque processing or payment clearing. This ruling would have cost banks and insurance groups in the EU dearly as most financial services are zero-rated for VAT, so the banks could not claim the money back. VAT on contracted-out services would have cost over £300 million.

However, yesterday the court threw out the Advocate-General's ruling.

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WORLD

Simon urges EU to focus on single market

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPE should concentrate on completing the single market and not let the political debate over monetary union "obscure" its benefits, a report co-authored by Lord Simon of Highbury claimed yesterday.

Lord Simon, the former chairman of BP, has recently been appointed Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, suggesting the report's analysis could provide the blueprint for government action.

The working group, which was

chaired by Lord Sheppard of Didgmore, gave warning that work on the single market must be completed if Europe is not to lose competitiveness. The report highlighted areas ranging from protected sectors to the application of competition law across the EU that Europe still needs to tackle to finish the single market project.

The "Sheppard Inquiry" received immediate backing from the Confederation of British Industry. Adair Turner, the Director General, said: "We must have a single market that

really works if Europe is successfully to tackle its twin problems of low growth and high unemployment."

The report finds that single market legislation has often become burdensome for business, while enforcement has been uneven. "Subsidiarity, health and safety and environmental regulations" have become "frequently used weapons" to block out foreign competition, while in some sectors single market legislation is in danger of "suffocating" business.

But the Sheppard Inquiry also finds that a lack of legislation in some

areas, especially in the energy, telecoms, transport and financial services sectors, is preventing the creation of a single market.

A single currency could also play an important part in eliminating distortions in the single market, but the report adds "it is not a precondition for its further development", and should not "obscure the economic benefits of a fully developed single market".

The Sheppard Inquiry concludes that there is a need to "rekindle the evangelical fervour" with which the

single market was launched in 1992, and outlines measures to put the project back on track. State aid, subsidies and price controls, which are distorting markets such as pharmaceuticals, should be removed, while competition needs to be introduced into the energy, telecoms and financial services sectors. Other barriers to an efficient single market — and especially to labour mobility — also need to be examined.

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CHRIS HARRIS

Boots offers pre-Budget payout of £400m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS will pay a special dividend worth £400 million to shareholders next week and has held out the prospect of further payouts in the future.

The swift payment of the special dividend, which is of 44.2p per share and will be paid on June 13, means it cannot be affected by any tax changes in the July 2 Budget.

Lord Blyth, chief executive, said that the method for future payouts could depend on Budget measures. "If ACT is abolished then buybacks will become attractive again."

Boots carried out two buybacks in November 1994 for £511 million and in June last for £300 million. It chose to do a special dividend this time because of tax changes introduced last year relating to

share repurchases. Boots's shares fell to a low of 66p on news of the special dividend, but later recovered to 69p, down 21p on the day.

Lord Blyth did not rule out acquisitions, particularly in healthcare, but said they were likely to be small or medium sized. He also said the Boots Advantage loyalty card would be rolled out within the next year.

The company reported an 8.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 to £536.2 million before exceptional items. The special dividend will give the company gearing of 10.5 per cent.

It is planning to open about 40 Boots the Chemists and 40 Halfords outlets each year. This will cost an annual £70 million and create 5,000 new jobs by the year 2000.

Lord Blyth said that Do It All, the DIY chain formerly co-owned by WH Smith, lost £6.9 million before exceptional items, but should be cash positive in the current year and go into profit next year. He said it could become a core business if it continued to improve, but he did not rule out selling it.

Plans to open Boots the Chemists stores in Japan have been thrown into doubt because of difficulties finding a partner there. Lord Blyth said alternatives included the Middle East, Brazil, Malaysia and Taiwan. First openings in Thailand and The Netherlands are due within weeks.

Preparing the company's systems for the year 2000 is likely to cost up to £10 million, while preparing for a European single currency could cost up to £20 million.

Boots is paying a final dividend of 14.3p (12.8p), payable on August 22, giving a total for the year of 64.7p (58.5p).

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The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets. Pictured left to right back are Sir Alan Budd, Ian Plenderleith, Charles Goodhart, Willem Buiter and front Howard Davies, Eddie George and Mervyn King

CU to pay compensation over Pep mortgages

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION has been fined £95,000 and is to pay compensation of £84,000 to customers who were sold high-charging personal equity plan mortgages even though their house sales fell through.

The Pep mortgages had start-up charges that swelled up to 50 per cent of the first year's premiums, compared with ordinary Pep plans that charge about 5 per cent.

The sales took place between April 1990 and July

1995, after which the Pep, known as the Taxsave Home-maker Personal Equity Plan, was discontinued. The customers had been sold the Taxsave Home-maker Pep while trying to buy a home, but when the sale fell through they continued with it, even though it was an unsuitable investment because it was directly linked to a mortgage.

Ninety-four customers will receive an average £894 each, either in the form of returned

premiums plus interest, or cash and units in another Pep. Immo, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, imposed the fine on Commercial Union Trustees Ltd (CUTL), a fund management company owned by CU. Gordon Harpin, director of CUTL, said he regretted the mistake, but added that some of the sales staff involved had left the company. Those who remained would not be disciplined or retrained, he said.

Construction orders show 2% decline

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

NEW construction orders declined in the three months to the end of April with the private housing and infrastructure sectors particularly hard hit, according to data published yesterday.

Orders declined by 2 per cent overall in the three months to April 30, but were 8 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The Department of the Environment said that orders improved "sharply" in April, with industrial and private commercial sectors enjoying their highest levels of new orders for a year.

Private housing orders declined by 23 per cent in the three months to the end of April and were only 3 per cent above the levels recorded in the same period last year. Infrastructure orders declined by a quarter.

But public non-housing orders, private commercial and industrial orders all showed strong growth.

Emap in talks to sell magazines

EMAP is in talks with a former executive of its business services side, who left abruptly three months ago, about selling him 14 magazines for a price believed to be in excess of £25 million (Jason Nisse writes).

Simon Timm, former director of Emap Finance & Freight,

is trying to finalise finance to buy the 14 titles, including Press Gazette, Media Week and Meat Trades Journal. The magazines have a total turnover of £15 million but are not believed to make much profit. Mr Timm is working on the deal from a central

London office owned by Emap. Robin Miller, managing director, confirmed the talks and said he hoped to complete a deal soon.

Venture capitalists have been approached to back the transaction but none is believed to have signed up.

Sainsbury's Bank to offer loans

SAINSBURY'S BANK will be offering personal loans from next Monday, in an expansion of the supermarket's financial services division launched in February (Anne Ashworth writes).

The bank, a joint venture with Bank of Scotland, has already attracted £350 million from 225,000 customers to its savings account. Savers receive 5.75 per cent, currently a better-than-average rate, especially for smaller balances.

Loans of up to £4,999 will have an annual percentage rate of 13.7 per cent, while those between £5,000 and £15,000 will be charged at 12.7 per cent — below high street bank rates.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.24	2.08
Austria Sch	20.75	18.20
Belgium Fr	61.07	55.43
Canada \$	2.36	2.18
Cyprus Cyp	0.878	0.811
Denmark Kr	11.27	10.44
Finland Mk	8.97	8.27
France Fr	9.92	9.20
Germany Dm	2.97	2.74
Greece Dr	473	435
Hong Kong \$	13.35	12.22
Iceland Kr	127	107
Ireland P	1.15	1.07
Israel Sh	5.68	5.25
Italy Lira	2632	2710
Japan Yen	202.50	186.00
Malta	0.651	0.605
Netherlands Gld	3.349	3.072
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	12.24	11.28
Portugal Esc	206.50	275.50
S Africa Rd	5.99	5.28
Spain Ptas	248.50	231.00
Sweden Kr	13.38	12.35
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.30
Turkey Lira	242.54	224.07
USA \$	1.728	1.594

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Harman plans pension split at divorce

BY CAROLINE MERRELL



Harman: important step

THE Government announced yesterday that it plans to introduce a new law allowing divorcing couples to split their pensions at the point of divorce.

The new Act, which is expected to be brought in by 2000, was announced by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, who is also the Minister for Women. She said: "I will introduce pension-sharing for divorcing couples. This is an important step towards meeting the Government's objectives of improving the income of women in retirement." She added that pension-splitting at divorce would prevent many retired women from facing poverty.

Ms Harman said that 70 per cent of the two million people aged above 60 who are dependent on income support are women. The draft Bill will be produced during

the current session with a view to meeting the April 2000 target for introduction of the new law. The Government plans to consult with the pensions industry, family lawyers and others who have been campaigning for this change.

At present, the courts cannot divide pension rights between divorcing couples. They have the power to offset pensions against other assets such as property, or they can earmark pensions so that maintenance can be paid when the scheme member retires. The new legislation could affect the 150,000 couples who divorce each year. Ms Harman pointed out that, according to 1991 figures, only 3.9 million women belonged to an occupational pension scheme compared with 6.8 million men. The money women earn from occupational schemes is also less

than men — £22 a week compared with £67. Although the Secretary of State hailed the announcement as a move that would benefit women in the main, the measures could also benefit divorced men whose wives are the principal earners.

Sallie Kohn, head of Fairshares, an organisation that has been campaigning for divorced women, said: "We welcome the move from the Labour Government but we will have to look at the detail."

The Act will aim to tackle some of the problems of the pensions "earmarking" arrangements introduced by the Conservative Government two years ago. Under these arrangements, payments to an estranged wife will dry up if the former husband dies. If the former wife remarries she will also lose her pension entitlement.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Foster's aims to sell Innentrepreneur stake

FOSTER'S BREWING said it would consider any offers for its half stake in Innentrepreneur, the British pub chain. Ted Kunkel, chief executive, said: "We have made no secret of the fact that Innentrepreneur is no longer a core business for us. We do get offers from time to time for different assets and we consider them." Innentrepreneur is jointly owned by Grand Metropolitan, which is in the process of merging with C Guinness, and Foster's, the Australian brewer, is to buy back in the 13 per cent stake held by Asahi, the Japanese brewer, for A\$625 million (£230 million). Meanwhile, Bruken Hill Proprietary will place 31.4 per cent of Foster's with an investment bank and an Australian broker. The sale could raise about A\$1.5 billion. BHP's remaining 5.1 per cent stake will be made available to its shareholders after October 5 in a separate offer for those who wish to continue with a Foster's holding. BHP will take a book gain on the main sale of its shares of about A\$75 million.

Sears settles tax dispute

SEARS has reached a settlement with the Inland Revenue over a protracted dispute concerning the retail group's tax treatment of its sale of William Hill, the betting shop chain. The Revenue, which had been claiming more than £80 million in unpaid tax, has agreed that Sears should pay £750,000. David Defy, finance director, said that the Revenue had agreed to pay back about £1.5 million in tax to Sears in settlement of other matters, so that the net effect should be "a small profit".

NU grey price slips

SHARES in Norwich Union, the mutual life insurer due to float on the stock market on June 16, are currently being quoted at 334p to 344p according to City Index, the financial bookmaker. The price has risen by more than 10 per cent since trading started in the unofficial grey market at 310p on June 3. City Index reported receiving 400 to 500 calls about the insurer in that time. Norwich Union's most recent forecast for the opening price is 340p to 350p. City Index said the stock had slipped from a high of 355p to 365p on Wednesday.

News Ltd appointment

LACHLAN MURDOCH has been appointed chairman of News Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of The News Corporation, which is the parent company of The Times. Mr Murdoch takes up his new responsibilities on July 1. The appointment follows the recent announcement of Ken Cowley's decision to step down as executive chairman of News Ltd. Mr Murdoch, 25, has been managing director of News Ltd since September 1996. He joined the board in September 1995.

Denby issues warning

SHARES in Denby Group, the furniture and furnishings group, fell 25p to 222½p after Ray Way, chairman, said current trading was being affected by the sluggish conditions in the UK tableware market and the strength of sterling. The company reported a 15.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.5 million on sales up 15 per cent to £19.3 million for the six months to March 31. Earnings rose 13 per cent to 7p and the total dividend rises 15 per cent to 1.55p. Mr Way adds he is confident of progress for the year as a whole.

WH Smith in lease deal

WH SMITH, the retail group, has sold and leased back 14 high street shops, raising £55 million. The deal with British Gas pensions trust will be used to reduce group debt and provide finance for investment. The properties will be leased back for a total initial annual rent of £3 million. There will be five-year rent reviews on the 15-year leases. Bill Cockburn, chief executive, said that the move would further strengthen the company's balance sheet. Since January last year, the group has raised more than £235 million from disposals.

Airsprung rises 27%

AIRSPRUNG FURNITURE, the bed, furniture and upholstery manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits 27.4 per cent to £6.9 million on sales up from £56.3 million to £58.6 million. Earnings per ordinary share rose 25.2 per cent to 17.4p. The total dividend rises 18.5 per cent to 6.4p. John Pierce, chief executive, said: "I am delighted that this year's strong profit vindicates the strategy to concentrate on our core businesses." The beds division, the main influence on group profits, has expanded current facilities to meet increased demand.

Avesco plans expansion

AVESCO, the supplier of giant outdoor video screens for sports stadiums and concert tours, said it intends to make at least two acquisitions in North America and continental Europe this year in an effort to grow the company by 50 per cent or more. Last year it paid \$1.3 million for a 25 per cent stake in BCC, a US rival; and it now controls roughly 40 per cent of the global market for giant screens. Pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 rose 76 per cent to £3.15 million, on turnover of £20.8 million, up 20 per cent. A final dividend of 2p makes a 5p total, up 25 per cent.

The GP Group

THE GP GROUP has asked us to make it clear that General Practice Investment Corporation (GPI), a subsidiary that provides development and investment services to health authorities, community trusts and doctors, has no connection with Government Purchasing Index — which is also known as GPI — which was wound up by the High Court on public interest grounds earlier this week after an inquiry by the Department of Trade and Industry.

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Simon service could deliver ace



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Europe can succeed as a single market without a single currency. This timely reminder of what many simple souls had always assumed comes from yet another think tank, the Action Centre for Europe. As with so many worthy organisations, the chairman of ACE is the ubiquitous Lord Sheppard of Didgmore, a man who appears terminally addicted to committees. Yet the thoughts of this particular tank may carry more weight than most since one highly involved member was David Simon, the former BP chairman who has been catapulted into the House of Lords and a new job in Government.

The few rubs of the eraser have removed Lord Simon's name from prominence in the report but that diplomatic gesture does not lessen his contribution, nor its importance. As the new Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, he is actually in a position to turn the ACE ideas into action.

While the increasingly farcical debate over a single currency has waged, attention has wandered from the single market ideal that was at the root of most businessmen's enthusiasm for Europe. Five years ago, the talk was all of barriers being brought tumbling down: today, many of those barriers are still standing. Exporters to Europe still find their efforts hampered by regulatory road blocks, while different product specifications can

cause havoc in certain sectors. Chancellor Gordon Brown, realising that the EMU issue is degenerating into chaos, has already tried to focus attention back on the concept of a single market: perhaps he has been on the receiving end of a gentle nudging from his new ministerial colleague. But bringing down barriers requires more than a slug with a sledgehammer. As the ACE report so delicately puts it: "We should not forget that belief in free trade and open markets is by no means universal, and in some European countries the cultural tradition leans towards state intervention and protection."

In other words, the French remain of the view that their companies take priority in any given situation. When George Simpson ventured to suggest that GEC might bid for Thomson he was just having fun.

But there have already been benefits to Britain from the loosening of trade barriers, hence the increasing proportion of our exports which stay within Europe. Much more could be achieved, ACE calls for a re-examination of proposals for a European Company Statute, although it wants to preserve the

diversity of company formats in Europe, not straight jacket UK companies into the two-tier boards beloved of Germany.

Rightly, the businessmen behind ACE want to be left to run their companies in the way they think best while enjoying the benefits of a free trade area. A single currency need not complicate the equation. Lord Simon will be doing well if he can persuade the Government to concentrate on achieving that.

Blyth spirit at work in Boots

Boots is at its best when not trying to be exciting. Shareholders have every reason to appreciate chief executive Lord Blyth's tacit admission that the company is not about to embark on any major adventures for the time being and that it therefore makes sense to pay a £400 million special

dividend to the people who own the business.

Slipping in the payment ahead of the July Budget must count as a pretty slick move, too. Although the objection in principle to retrospective taxation is being brushed aside to accommodate the windfall tax on utilities, payouts to shareholders are unlikely to be clobbered in similarly retrospective fashion.

The payout enhances Boots's performance, which now ranks it fourth in the league for returns to shareholders: since April last year it has returned £900 million to investors.

At the same time, the business itself has continued to grow. The company which this week announced an environmentally conscious plan to hand out free bicycles to those of its staff prepared to give up their car parking spaces at work, is more in tune with the mood of the market place than its long established name may suggest.

Boots the Chemist has spruced up its stores and happily whipped the best ideas from Anita Roddick and anyone else who knows about selling cosmetics and toiletries. And while it still feels it has plenty of scope to grow in the UK, it is also not giving up on the international market. The Netherlands and Thailand are about to become beneficiaries of Jesse Boots's legacy.

When gradually building on that legacy, Boots is at its best. It is when it experiences the occasional wish to splash out in new directions that trouble can occur: Children's World and Do It All were just such aberrations.

Storehouse is now struggling to make the Children's World format a success but Boots has persisted doggedly with Do It All and even that now seems to be coming right. Its partner in what was a joint venture, WH Smith, decided to back out, and paid Boots to take the problem away.

Now, with the business heading towards profit, it is clear that Boots had the better of the deal.

Lord Blyth reasoned that an upturn in the DIY market must come eventually, and so it has. Which means that he will relish all the more the next cheque for £10 million due to reach him soon from the rather less smug chaps at WH Smith.

City should feel chill windfall

Sir Bob Horton approaches battles with relish. His style may not have endeared him to all his former colleagues at BP, who found the smooth Lord Simon more to their taste, but in the United States he went down a wow, even with the unions, which could appreciate his punchiness. So there was little likelihood that he would be making any concessions to the sensibilities of the Government yesterday when he unveiled the Railtrack profits and accompanying bonus for staff.

As far as he is concerned, the Railtrack performance is laudable, with investment running way ahead of anything for which the regulator might have been

hoping. The stock market loved it, with the shares soaring ahead to levels destined to incense the meanies who do not like to see investors enjoying such easy pickings.

Those investors may be benefiting from Sir Bob's efforts, coupled with obliging weather conditions, which apparently boosted profitability. They are also, undoubtedly, reaping the rewards of Railtrack being sold too cheaply by a Government that was fearful that it would be hard to give away shares in a railway company that does not own trains. Only time has demonstrated quite how severely under-priced so many privatisations were. The error is the essence of the Government's planned windfall tax. Perhaps the City advisers who reaped rich rewards from floating the business at giveaway prices should be called on for a contribution.

Captain's innings

LORD MACLAURIN will put in his final appearance as chairman of Tesco today, and should hear some handsome plaudits. He has transformed the business and bows out leaving the competition looking sorely beaten. Already, it seems, he has set about achieving similar results with English cricket. The secret, he says, is all about man-management. Which means that cricket, with 11 members to the team, should be a doddle after Tesco.

Mowlem pays £4.5m for float

By PAUL DURMAN

JOHN MOWLEM'S stock market flotation of a minority stake in SGB, the construction group's scaffolding business, has cost £4.5 million in advisers' fees — more than 8 per cent of the £55.1 million being raised.

Stephen Yapp, SGB's finance director, said the high level of expenses reflected the scaffolding group's complexity and its numerous overseas subsidiaries. He said lawyers and accountants also had to do a lot of work checking SGB's agreements with Mowlem, which is retaining a 51 per cent stake.

After expenses, Mowlem will receive £18.9 million from the shares it is selling in placing. SGB's shares were priced at 150p each, valuing the company at £112.5 million.

Mowlem will receive a further £70 million or so when

SGB repays its debt to its parent. SGB will fund this payment with the £31.7 million it will receive from the share placing, and £40 million of borrowings.

Bob Stokell, SGB's chief executive, said the placing was 30 per cent oversubscribed by institutional investors, and suggested this should encourage a lively market debut for the company when dealings begin on June 25. Mr Stokell and his fellow directors have invested about £250,000 in the placing shares.

Giving SGB greater independence is intended to help improve its performance. SGB, which employs 4,000 people in 20 countries, made a pre-tax profit of £13.9 million.

Mowlem intends to use the receipts from the transaction to redeem its expensive £50 million Eurobond.

Pilkington reviews future of troubled European offshoots

By PAUL DURMAN

PAULO SCARONI, the new chief executive of Pilkington, is reviewing whether the glass manufacturer should persevere with the 230 double-glazing firms, cutting shops and other "downstream" operations it owns in Europe.

Mr Scaroni fears many of the downstream companies, often local companies, are too small to be managed effectively. He also doubts whether Pilkington should own such businesses, which are often competing with customers of the group's main float glass operation.

The downstream review, which is expected to take six months, looks likely to over-

turn the strategy pursued under Roger Leverton, who was replaced as chief executive two weeks ago. Mr Leverton believed the downstream businesses should dampen the peaks and troughs of the highly cyclical glass industry. Weak prices in Europe were the main reason for a slump in Pilkington's underlying pre-tax profits last year, from £212 million to £132 million.

However, the company's problems were exacerbated rather than diminished by its downstream operations, many of which lost money. Mr Scaroni said: "Most of them have been in trouble in the last year or so."

Although Pilkington had issued a profits warning, the results prompted analysts to cut this year's profit forecasts by about £20 million, to £120 million-£125 million. The company's shares slipped another 7p to 117p, far from their 207p autumn peak. Weak glass prices in Europe caused operating profits in the building products division to halve, from £161 million to £80 million — UK prices fell by 8 per cent, while German prices fell by 20 per cent.

The automotive division performed better, increasing its profits from £68 million to £91 million. However, the £40 million cost of the previously announced restructuring of the European automotive glass business was the main contributor to a £55 million exceptional charge that cut pre-tax profits to £77 million. Group sales were 3 per cent higher at £2.9 billion. Automotive sales rose by 12 per cent to £1.3 billion.

Pilkington intends to pay a final dividend of 3.25p on August 15, maintaining the total payout at 5p a share.

Temps, page 30

Benchmark seeks £119m to buy properties

By CARL MORTSHED

BENCHMARK, the central London property specialist, is raising £119 million in a rights issue to finance the purchase of a portfolio from Friends Provident for £82 million, and to acquire Wool House, near Pall Mall, from Chelsfield for £38 million.

The one-for-one share issue at 200p per share, combined with the property purchases, will leave Benchmark with pro forma net assets of £232 million and a net asset value per share of 193p.

The Friends Provident purchase is the second Benchmark has struck with the insurer. Last October it spent £113 million buying properties from Friends Provident. The share issue is being supported by the insurer, which owns 35 per cent of Benchmark, and the Hong Leong Group Malaysia, which has 34 per cent.

Benchmark will spend a further £43 million redeveloping Wool House, which is being acquired on an 89-year lease to the Crown Estate. Nigel Kempner, joint managing director of Benchmark, expects the completed value of Wool House to be about £95 million on the basis of rental income at £50-£55 per sq ft. Benchmark will seek to secure an extension of the Crown Estate lease to 125 years and develop 98,000 sq ft of offices and 14,000 sq ft of residential accommodation.

The Friends Provident portfolio comprises 11 properties in the City and West End of London, with total rental income of £6 million, an initial yield of 7.4 per cent.

Hambro Insurance looks for growth

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

HINTS that Hambro Insurance Services (HIS) might raise its dividend for the first time in three years failed to lift the company's share price yesterday. It ended 2p down at 80p. The shares have found little favour with the City recently.

However, Nicholas Page, managing director, said he expected the company to show future growth. "Our long-term aim is dividend cover of two times and we hope to be reviewing the dividend favourably," he said.

HIS reported pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 of £10.9 million, down slightly from the previous year's figure of £11 million. Earnings per share were 9.4p, down from 10p, and the dividend was held at 5.5p.

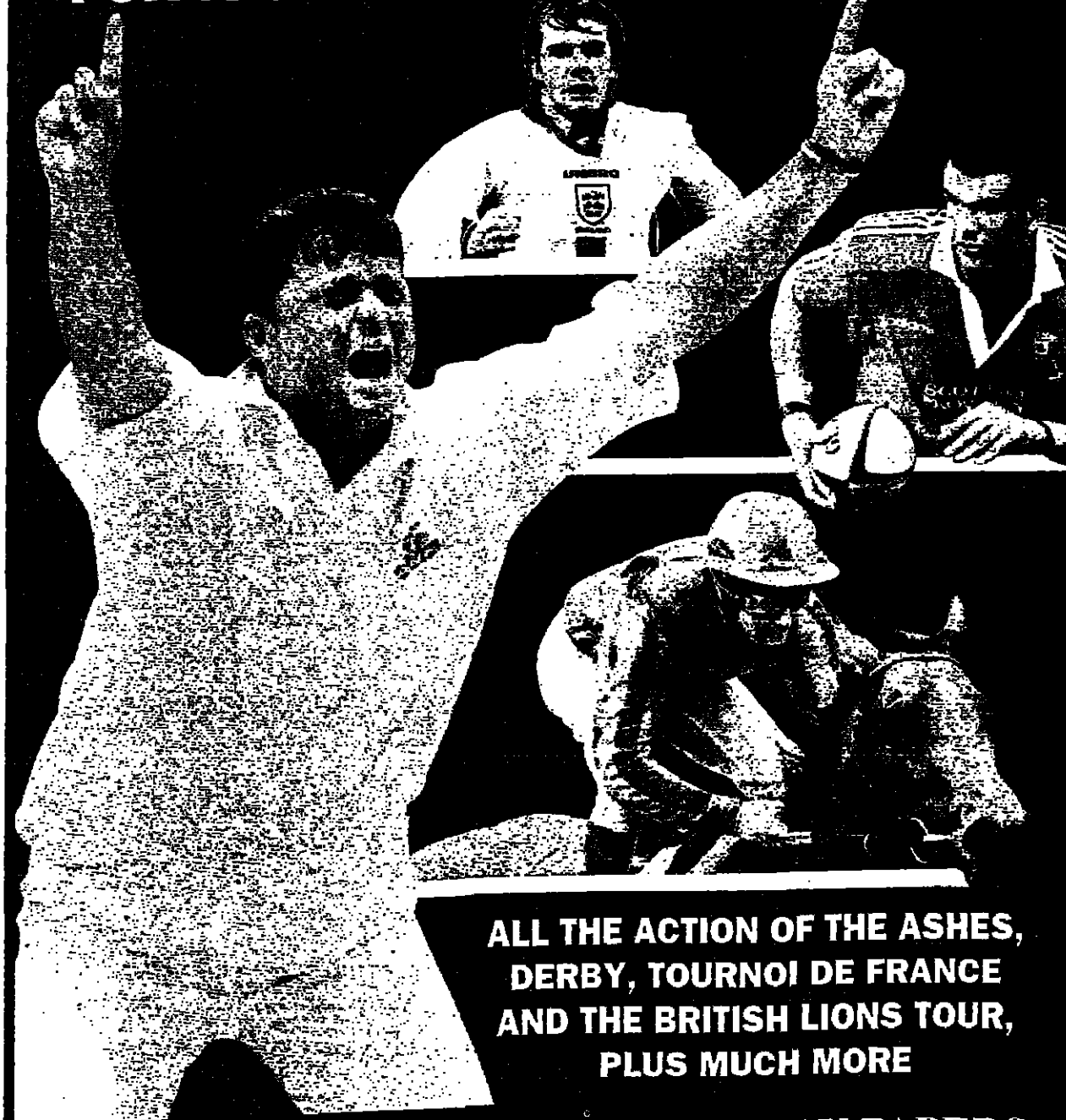
Mr Page said the pre-tax profit figure for 1996-97 had been adversely affected by the strength of sterling. Christopher Sporborg, chairman, said the results were "very encouraging given the much lower impact of exceptional weather related claims".

HIS is to create 130 new jobs at its claims handling unit, Cunningham Select, following an agreement with Royal & SunAlliance.



Christopher Sporborg said the results were very encouraging

THE SUNDAY TIMES HOWZAT FOR A GREAT WEEKEND OF SPORT



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AND THE BRITISH LIONS TOUR,
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107 for 0, 21.1 overs

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bae shares lift off with new Eurofighter hopes

BRITISH AEROSPACE appears to be back in favour with City investors. The price climbed 2 1/2p to £12.75, amid growing relief that the Eurofighter project will not only be saved, but may even go ahead on time.

This follows talks between the various governments involved in the project, including Germany, which had been threatening to withhold funding as part of its cost-cutting measures designed to meet the single currency criteria.

Two big securities firms are now singing the group's praises, including Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the company's own broker. It has raised its profit forecast for the current year from £550 million to £575 million and for next year from £625 million to £650 million.

NatWest Securities also reckons Bae looks attractive and believes there is still plenty to go for. It has raised its target price as part of a major review to £15.02. Almost 15 million shares had changed hands by the close.

Relief at a successful conclusion to the Eurofighter project also lifted Smiths Industries 7 1/2p to 770 1/2p, and Rolls-Royce 5 1/2p to 243 1/2p.

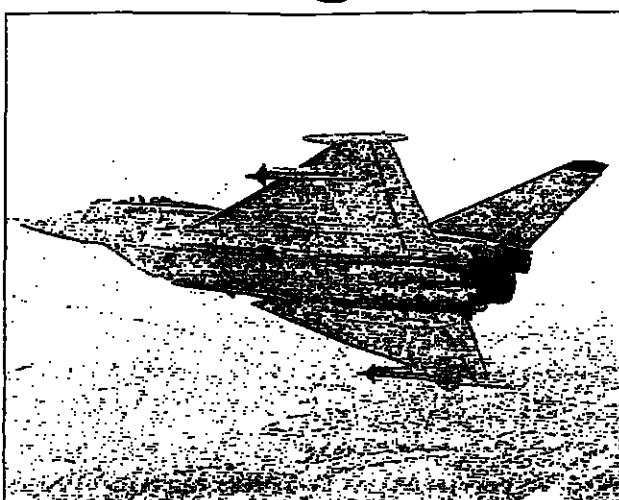
A healthy opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street last night enabled London to reverse earlier falls and end the day on a high note.

The FT-SE 100 index wiped out a 22.2 deficit to end the session near its best of the day with a rise of 19.1 points at 4,576.2. A total of 859 million shares changed hands.

Lasmo was the best performer among the top 250 companies, rising 1p to 259p after winning the bid for the Dacia Area in Venezuela's third-round operating agreement. Lasmo is ploughing \$435 million (£200 million) into the project.

BT stood out with a rise of 7p to 453 1/2p after securing backing for a \$10 billion syndicated credit facility for Concert, which will be formed once the merger with MCI goes through. The facility has been arranged by a clutch of banks, including Bank of America, Citicorp and JP Morgan Securities.

Hopes that the proposed link-up with American Airlines may soon go through, helped British Airways to a 20p rise at 715 1/2p. This follows recommendations made in a



Eurofighter's revival saw brokers backing Bae, up 2 1/2p

US congressional report that other American carriers are alloted an extra 25 slots over Heathrow each day.

The Square Mile is about to contract even further with news of a bid approach for Cater Allen, the discount house. The shares shot up 12 1/2p to 562 1/2p, giving the group a price tag of £183 million. The City has experienced a spate of mergers and

takeovers. Leopold Joseph secured 32 1/2p to 552 1/2p. The £400 million cash hand-out that accompanied Boots full-year figures left the price 2 1/2p easier at 692p in ex-dividend form, after briefly touching 661p. The special dividend of 4 1/2p a share is in addition to the 14.3p ordinary dividend being paid.

The better than expected profits news from Railtrack

was rewarded with a rise of 12 1/2p to 658p. But the size of the numbers drew criticism from other quarters who believe the company should step up its investment.

Pilkington fell 7p to 117p, with brokers pointing to downgrade in the wake of its profits setback.

TLS continued to respond to this week's news of a bid approach with a rise 10p at 135p. Bid speculation also continued to drive Shield Diagnostics sharply higher. The price touched 575p before ending the session 65p higher at 563 1/2p, a rise over three days of 140p.

John Mowlem was steady at 132 1/2p after floating a 49 per cent stake in SGB, its scaffolding arm, which it bought for £160 million in 1986. The placing was 30 per cent oversubscribed and has raised a total of £55.1 million. Mowlem wants the cash to redeem £50 million worth of Eurobonds.

Denby Group has become the latest victim of sterling's current strength against its major rivals, with the shares falling 25p to 222 1/2p.

A profits warning left Cassidy Brothers 9p lower at 48p. The toy and nursery goods group says trading conditions have proved more difficult than envisaged.

The abrupt resignation of Bob Williams as chief executive and a director of the company left DCS Group 29 1/2p down at 275p. Robin Arrowsmith has been appointed chief operating officer and Robin Lodge, chairman.

Shares of Dunlop House were suspended at 32 1/2p pending publication of a circular on an Irish acquisition.

ILIT-EDGED: Prices rallied from a cautious start with the help of the lowest rise in the CBI Distributive Trades Survey since October 1995. But prices were unable to hold their best levels and closed virtually unchanged.

In futures the September series of the long gilt closed a tick firmer at £113 1/2, as the number of contracts completed reached 40,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2105 was a tick off at £108 1/2, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick easier at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Blue chips rose more than 50 points, partly supported by a rebound in big technology stocks. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 66.10 points at 7,335.76.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7335.76 (+66.10)
S&P Composite 947.61 (+7.50)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20488.15 (+123.41)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14795.52 (+36.00)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 820.09 (+0.57)

Sydney:
AO 2604.2 (+11.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3673.03 (+11.19)

Singapore:
SREX 2043.71 (+4.18)

Brussels:
General 13046.92 (+0.33)

Paris:
CAC-40 3690.85 (+55.48)

Zurich:
SNA Gen 1102.00 (+6.60)

London:
FTSE 100 4576.2 (+19.1)
FTSE 250 1220.3 (+7.3)
FTSE 350 2260.87 (+11.18)
FTSE All-Share 2181.08 (+6.51)
FTSE Non Financials 2201.07 (+4.14)
FTSE Food Interest 132.64 (+0.22)
FTSE Govt Secs 96.36 (+0.12)
Bursars 4276
SEAQ Volume 89.2M
US\$ 1.63M (+0.0022)
German Mark 2.8195 (+0.0007)
Exchange Index 158.3 Apr (2.4%) Jun 1997/100
Bank of England official rate 5.00
EBCU 1.4369
ESDR 1.5881 (+0.0010)
RPIX 155.8 Apr (2.5%) Jun 1997/100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester 602 1/2 + 4
Aston Villa 825 + 3
Cable & Wireless 263 1/2 + 3
Caradon B 999 + 1
Downing Hill VCT 100 + 1
Eagle 275 + 2
Hallifax 729 + 3
Heart of Midlothian 109 + 2
ITC Group 157 + 2
Integrated As Mgt 125 + 14 1/2
Lady In Leisure 124 + 1
Longbridge Intl 117 + 1
NWT 481 + 1
Newmark Tech 121 + 1
Pentam AIM VCT II 100 + 1
Petra Diamonds 65 + 1
Petra Diamonds Wts 49 + 1
Qualicam (143) 155 + 1
SBS Group 117 + 1
Soccer Investments 104 + 1
Socoo International 236 + 1
Tops Tiles 111 + 1
Versatile Group 31 + 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (205) 16 + 1
Tadpole Tech n/p (10) 1 + 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Shield Diag 570p (+72 1/2p)
TLS 135p (+10p)
Flextech 552 1/2p (+14 1/2p)
Clyde Blowers 350p (+11 1/2p)
LASMO 258p (+11 1/2p)
Xenova 351p (+12 1/2p)
Br Airways 715p (+12 1/2p)
Compass GP 689p (+1 1/2p)
Com Int'l 671 1/2p (+1 1/2p)
Railtrack 658p (+12 1/2p)

FALLS:
Denby Grp 222 1/2p (-25p)
DCS Group 275p (-29 1/2p)
Thistle Hotels 172p (-8 1/2p)
Telspec 242p (-10p)
Socla 389p (-10p)
Andrew Sykes 602p (-10p)
Aster Ltd 66 1/2p (-2 1/2p)
Scot & New 65 1/2p (-5p)
De La Rue 391 1/2p (-3p)

Closing Prices Page 36

TEMPUS

On the right lines

RAILTRACK is still a raging buy and it is not simply because the rail regulator made a fool of himself yesterday. Apparently surprised by the size of Railtrack's profits (curious, given that they were in line with expectations), he intends an early review of the performance regime. Ofrair can review until the cows come home but Mr Swift has no power to change a regulatory regime set in law until 2001.

Yesterday's public relations blitz contained some frighteners from a Government that still believes like an enraged Opposition party. The Secretary of State for Transport suggests that Railtrack be forced to invest (by Act of Parliament) and a hint from Ofrair (could its staff be kept for jobs in Labour's new mega-regulator?) that it might be prepared to interfere in private contracts between Railtrack and the train operators.

Pilkington

PILKINGTON has stopped troubling the market for its troubles, the only encouraging note in a horrible set of figures. Peter Scaroni, Pilkington's chairman, takes the entirely sensible view that the market determines the price of glass and there is not much the company can do about it.

But such fatalism inevitably leads to more restructuring. Pilkington can scarcely be accused of ignoring its cost base.

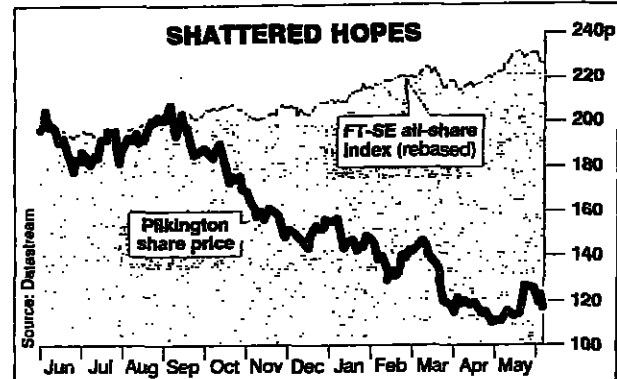
Without last year's cost-cutting, operating profits could have fallen as low as £30 million, instead of the reported £152 million.

Mr Scaroni has turned his attention to the slew of small double-glazing and other "downstream" operations that it owns across Europe. Under Roger Leventon, his

predecessor, the downstream operations were supposed to dampen the peaks and troughs of the glass cycle. Fine in theory, but they lost money last year, just as the glass price collapsed. Mr Scaroni suspects most of them only add to Pilkington's problems, taking up management time and deflecting the company from

the all-important issue of improving the efficiency of its float glass manufacturing operation.

However, Pilkington's understanding of the downstream problem seems far from complete. While it gropes its way towards a solution, it is difficult to see much upside in the share price.



Lasmo

VENEZUELA is not the cheapest place for an oil company to do business but the sheer scale of Lasmo's investment in the Dacia area is exciting enough. In total, taking into account development expenditure of some \$700 million over five years, Lasmo will be investing \$1.2 billion into a 2.2 billion barrel oilfield with a production target of 90,000 barrels a day, roughly half Lasmo's 1996 average daily production over its entire worldwide portfolio.

The costs are not high — assuming Lasmo reaches its 40 per cent recovery target it should be able to produce 500 million barrels from Dacia, suggesting that Lasmo has paid about \$250 for each barrel. However, the City expects the return on investment to be good, if unexciting, at about 15-20 per cent after the Venezuelan Government's take.

The real excitement is in

Germany to try to wean German business folk off bank capital. The investment will do little to alter its overwhelmingly UK-weighted portfolio but it should receive a warm welcome.

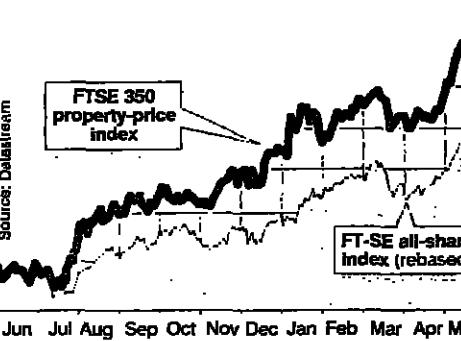
Yesterday's safe and solid results showed the institution has the right stuff to break down the caution that impedes the development of the German equity market. The net asset value was a little below expectations but respectable in a dull sector. There is also a whiff of social worthiness about the way 3i sticks by start-ups that could appeal to German hair-shirtists, although returns of up to 11 times the original investment do not imply self-sacrifice.

The expensive equity market is putting upward pressure on buyout prices but competition from other funds should sail over 3i's head because of the latter's focus on smaller firms. Still, it would be unwise to chase the shares.

THE venture capitalists of 3i are opening several offices in

EDITED BY PAUL MORTIMSTER

BAD CASE OF SUBSIDENCE



PROPERTY shares suffered early losses on reports that the Chancellor is preparing to double stamp duty on commercial property transactions. Currently, stamp duty is 1 per cent payable by the purchaser on the full capital value. Some say he may even choose to raise it to 5 or 6 per cent, matching similar rates on the Continent. It is seen as an effective way of raising capital.

Georgina Browning, property analyst at NatWest Securities, warns the market that such a move would be negative

but is quick to urge clients not to jump to conclusions. She said: "It's purely a rumour at present. There is still nothing to go with it. But the property sector is a rising market and you need to ask yourself if you want to be out of a rising market for any length of time."

Most prices managed to close above their low points of the day, although there were still losses for Brixton Estates, 4 1/2p to 217 1/2p, Land Securities, 6p to 869 1/2p, Freepoint Leisure, 45p to 172p, Estates & General, 2p to 62 1/2p, and Capital Shopping, 2 1/2p to 403 1/2p.

COMMODITIES

ICE-ICE (London & 00pm)
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 17.95 -0.40
Brent 15 day (Jul) 18.40 -0.40
Brent 1 month 18.40 -0.40
W. Texas Intermediate (Jul) 18.75 -0.41
WTI Intermediate (Jul) 20.00 -0.31

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)

Gas Oil 17.95 -0.40
Premium Light 17.95 -0.40
Tall 150 (1000) 17.95 -0.40
25 Fuel Oil 18.10 -0.40
Naphta (1000) 18.10 -0.40

ICE OILS (Jul)
Jul 17.95 -0.40
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ICE-ICE (London & 00pm)
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 17.95 -0.40
Brent 15 day (Jul) 18.40 -0.40
Brent 1 month 18.40 -0.40
W. Texas Intermediate (Jul) 18.75 -0.41
WTI Intermediate (Jul) 20.00 -0.31

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)

Gas Oil 17.95 -0.40
Premium Light 17.95 -0.40
Tall 150 (1000) 17.95 -0.40
25 Fuel Oil 18.10 -0.40
Naphta (1000) 18.10 -0.40

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Some borrowers rely on Miras

From Mr K. Armitage
Sir, During the 1980s people were encouraged to purchase property, and the mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) scheme, then at 30 per cent on the first £30,000, was used as an incentive.

Now the IoD, in its submission to the Chancellor for his planned Budget, is recommending that the Miras scheme, now standing at 15 per cent on the first £30,000, be scrapped ("IoD calls for mortgage tax relief to be scrapped", May 27), rather than increase income taxation. The IoD speaks for the captains of industry, but who speaks for the average householder who might rely on Miras to make ends meet?

Nonetheless, the Chancellor might accept such a proposal but he should only do so, if firstly, the building societies agree to charge interest on loans on a monthly rather than an annual basis, and, secondly, mortgages can be paid off without financial penalty. Yours faithfully, KENNETH ARMITAGE, 6 Deben Valley Drive, Kesgrave, Suffolk.

No returns from the Revenue

From Mr John Whittaker
Sir, Tax returns full of mistakes (May 29). It should hardly be a surprise to the Inland Revenue — it failed to supply a copy return for the taxpayers' own retention and to serve as a worksheet — a common practice in Europe.

Incorrect or not, I can't begin to think of the probable state in which some returns will be submitted.

And what's more, my attempts to obtain a second return from the local tax office and the Inland Revenue's central order group have proved fruitless.

The former had none and did not expect to provide them, and the latter failed to respond to my request. I don't feel inclined to make a photocopy, as suggested by a tax official.

Inland Revenue offices could save themselves much aggravation by placing a stock of blanks at reception for taxpayer collection. Yours faithfully, JOHN M. WHITTAKER, 25 St Ives Gardens, Bournemouth.

Starting date is all in currency debate

From Mr E. Cox
Sir, S.W. de Loone (Business Letters, May 23) is right enough to denounce the over-readiness of some commentators to blame their inability to sustain profitability on the value of sterling. "Germany and Japan", he notes, "have lived for 50 years or so with a constantly appreciating currency."

Well, yes, but so much depends on your starting date. If he chose 60 years not 50, the yen was 16 to the pound and four to the dollar. Today it is worth just a few per cent of that, which is real depreciation. Yours faithfully, EDWIN COX, 76 Cranney Road, SE14.

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Operation Rhinegold and French vote unsettle EMU

If you want to watch history in the making, keep your eyes on EMU

If the manager of your local Marks & Spencer is caught with his hand in the till, he does not normally expect to keep his job, even if he does apologise and gives the money back.

Why then is everyone so confident about the future of Helmut Kohl, now that the Bundesbank has caught him red-handed in an attempted gold heist?

Why, in particular, are financial markets now apparently more confident than ever that Kohl will succeed in forging economic and monetary union on to a hostile German public and even extend the common currency to such financial untouchables as Italy?

Logic would suggest that Kohl's political power and the credibility of EMU should have been greatly weakened both by his failed fraud in Germany and by the election in France. Yet investors sold francs and lire and European shares and bonds for only a few hours after the French results were announced.

By Monday afternoon the markets had completely changed course and seemed to be betting more heavily than ever that EMU would proceed on schedule and with Italy in the founding group.

The conventional explanation for the market's confidence was well put in Monday's *Financial Times*: "The political will behind EMU is so strong that, however convincing the practical arguments against it, nothing seems capable of derailing the project."

From this point of view the fraudulence of Kohl's Operation Rhinegold could actually be taken as good news. It proved that Kohl would stop at nothing to achieve EMU. It also implicitly endorsed the trickery used by Italy to join the club. In this upside-down world, the French election was also seen as good news for EMU. President Chirac had called this election specifically to win a mandate for the measures required to qualify for EMU. He had spectacularly lost. But why worry? The socialist victory meant that EMU could now go ahead without any further belt-tightening. If the German public or the Bundesbank objected, Kohl would just tell them to get lost. Better still, Lionel Jospin had insisted that Italy must be a founder member. Again, the Germans might not like this, but Kohl would simply make them do as they're told.

According to this Panglossian reasoning, the recent events, far from endangering EMU, have made the single currency more certain than ever. Furthermore, the outcome of the process is no



Jacques Chirac, left, and Helmut Kohl have gambled on the political will behind EMU

longer going to be the Franco-German Camembert currency I have often described on these pages — hard on the outside but soft on the inside and getting softer all the time. The euro will now be more like an oozing, creamy Dolcelatte Torte — riddled in its very essence with green veins of corruption, but all the more delicious for that.

For those (like myself) who prefer the sensual *joie de vivre* of the Mediterranean to the self-righteousness of the modern Teutons, this is an entrancing prospect for Europe. But something about it does not seem quite right.

Do investors really believe that a "broad-soft EMU", embracing Italy and probably even Greece in a few years' time is now 60 or 70 per cent probable, as the commonly cited measures of market expectations seem to suggest? Is the probability of a total breakdown really as near to zero as it was before Chirac and Kohl made their historic blunders?

In my view, for what it is worth, Operation Rhinegold

and the French election have exactly the opposite implications: They have increased the likelihood of EMU being seriously delayed or completely abandoned from perhaps 10 per cent to something like 50 per cent. Correspondingly, the probability of a "core" EMU, on broadly the Maastricht terms in 1990, has fallen from some 80 per cent to, say, 40 per cent. And the chance that Italy will be a founder member in a broad Dolcelatte EMU has actually diminished — from an already slim 10 per cent to a negligible 5 per cent.

Part of my reasoning was explained on this page last week. The attempted Bundesbank gold heist has discredited Kohl even among his own supporters. It has given the German public a respectable non-nationalistic reason for opposing the abolition of the mark. And it has presented the opposition with a potentially popular issue.

Coming on top of the left-wing political tide that is sweeping Europe, Operation

Rhinegold has suddenly transformed the theoretical speculation that Kohl might be swept out of office next year into practical politics. And if defeat does start to look likely, Kohl may quickly lose his air of omnipotence. His legendary control of the German political process is built, above all, on electoral success. In other words, Kohl could become a lame duck.

Under these circumstances I would not put my money on "the political will behind EMU". In Germany this political will reposes entirely in one aging man, who may be heading for political oblivion.

In France, the "political will" hypothesis was tested by President Chirac and thoroughly refuted. As for Italy, the last thing Chancellor Kohl will want to do now that he has been caught cheating will be to undermine the credibility of EMU even further by letting Italy in.

Why, then, have the markets remained so calm in the past few days? I can suggest four possible explanations. First, my analysis may be

completely wrong. Secondly, the markets may be wrong — the majority of investors may not understand the new reality and are therefore sticking to a familiar trend until the momentum turns. Intriguingly, this was the view put forward in a commentary in Wednesday's *Le Monde*: "Certain experts judge that the optimism of investors may rest on a misunderstanding: in London, New York, Tokyo and Frankfurt, but also in Paris, market participants are persuaded that the Socialists will not implement their economic project and will return to the orthodoxy of Pierre Bergé." This assumption, according to the paper, will probably be proved wrong.

Thirdly, the present calm may be a technical aberration. The markets turned very suddenly on Monday at just the time when the German Government was making its decision to surrender to the Bundesbank. Perhaps the French and Italian authorities got wind of this good news and saw the chance to launch a massive defence of their currencies and bonds. After being so badly beaten, the anti-EMU speculators may not find the courage for another assault until they see more bad news.

Finally, it is possible that investors actually agree with the sceptical analysis — about Kohl's waning power, the crumbling consensus in France and the growing chance of a delay — yet are doing nothing.

How could this be? Perhaps investors simply do not know how to profit from the possible collapse of EMU — or if they do think they know, their ideas may cancel each other out.

Consider, for example, what delaying EMU would do to the mark. Some analysts argue that the mark would immediately rise against the dollar and sterling, as well as against the lira and franc. But others suggest that if France and Italy gained a competitive edge by breaking the currency link, Germany would have to compensate by cutting interest rates and devaluing the mark against the dollar, yen and pound.

For shares and bonds, EMU setbacks are equally ambiguous. Italian and French equities might suffer from a collapse of confidence, but they would gain (as Britain's did after White Wednesday) from more competitive exchange rates, easier monetary and fiscal policies and higher economic growth.

Even Italian bonds, which I firmly believe to be the most vulnerable of all European assets, could arguably gain if lower short-term interest rates followed abandonment of the mark-lira link.

This would not be the first time that an event of vast historical importance was met with a shrug by financial markets — consider, for example, the end of the Cold War. In sum, if you want to watch history in the making, keep your eyes on EMU. But if you want to speculate for big profits, maybe you should try the Czech koruna or the Thai baht.

Camelot's luck runs out as censure sets in

Jon Ashworth on how a British success story has been tarnished by rotten PR

Less than three years into the marriage, Camelot is heading for the divorce courts. The wedding was a spectacular affair, with fireworks over the Thames, and star-studded parties, but the euphoria proved short lived. Today, Camelot's senior executives are expected to tender their resignations, boxed into a corner by Westminster ultimata. How did it all go so badly wrong?

Public relations, in short. On paper, Camelot has done an exceptional job. The lottery was assembled in record time, the British public caught the fever, and the whole aim of the exercise — raising the most for good causes — has been more than accomplished. In just 31 months £5 billion has been raised for the Government and good causes — about £1 billion ahead of forecasts. This is a great British success story.

But people have short memories. The fabric of the lottery has become as routine as delivering the milk, or collecting the mail. The technical complexities have been forgotten. One is left with the image of a group of well-heeled executives cashing in on a good thing. Hence, the events of the past ten days.

The debate is worth putting into perspective.

When the lottery came up for consideration in 1992, the Government made the conscious decision to run with a private operator. The money would come from private enterprise, not from the taxpayer. State-run lotteries do not hand out huge bonuses, and do not make profits, but who puts up the money in the first place? The contract went to competitive tender, and Camelot was deemed the most suitable candidate: a view endorsed independently by the National Audit Office. Performance-related pay was never an issue.

Mistakes have been made. Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, should have handed on to a successor once he had vetted the eight lottery candidates. This is common practice overseas, and would have avoided the subsequent

accusations — fuelled by an orchestrated "dirty tricks" campaign — that he was somehow in Camelot's pocket. Mr Davis did not resign, and has been in an untenable situation ever since.

Then there is the question of image. Tim Holley and his colleagues have a wealth of business experience, but they have not come across well in the "fat cat" row. Their insistence on sticking to the facts — that Britain has the world's most efficient lottery, that the rewards reflect the risks of the project — has made them appear insensitive. It is this apparent lack of contrition that so enraged Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, and prompted today's showdown.

Bad publicity on this scale will obviously affect ticket sales, but Camelot faces even more pressing problems. It is challenging the legality of 49s, a rival numbers game set up by William Hill and Ladbrooke, which is expected to generate sales of £250 million a year. The issue of whether it is legal has never been tested in court.

The book-makers are also lobbying for the introduction of side-betting, in which punters can take secondary bets on the lottery. Based on research in Ireland, which allows the practice, lottery sales could fall by

15 to 20 per cent, depriving government and good causes of up to £500 million a year.

Finally, there is Keno, a form of electronic bingo, which is often bigger than either Instant or the online lottery game, but is always run by the government-appointed operator. Lord Mancroft, the Tory peer who ran the successful Poppy Day scratchcards, wants to launch Keno in pubs, clubs and airport lounges, potentially diverting further huge sums.

Camelot's point is that bonuses for directors, paid out of its own pocket, are not the issue. Without action, it has little hope of achieving its target of raising £9 billion for good causes over seven years, whatever its successes so far. Who would be the losers then?



Star-crossed sign?

ALL CLEAR NOW?

bumf *n.* usu. derog. papers, documents (often prec. by what's all this; I'm not signing clause 2, para 4, sub 2.4.6 of this, etc.) for rapid transal.

affidavit *n.* 1 agreeable Welsh farmer 2 written statement produced in court which should be carefully drawn up.

paralegal *n.* 1 one who provides advice at great height (usu. 20,000 feet) 2 wordy legal document with many indented lines 3 a person trained in subsidiary legal matters.

case-law *n.* 1 the principle that a suitcase will always travel in an equal and opposite direction to the aircraft you're in 2 the law as established by the outcome of former cases.

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Tel: 0171 248 4282

Back to basics

JULIE RAMSHAW, the one-time City analyst whose departure from Laura Ashley caused such a stir (and yet another run on the shares) has found a new home. As predicted, she is heading back to the City. She is taking up a post at Morgan Stanley, her previous employer as it happens, which is beefing up its research base in London — an analyst covering the financials sector is still needed, I hear. Ramshaw is going back to the UK retail slot. Ramshaw left Morgan Stanley in

early 1996 to go to Laura Ashley and quit last month, rather unexpectedly, along with a senior finance man. She was at Morgan Stanley for six years before that. Everyone at Laura Ashley has denied any sort of row with Ann Iverson, chief executive, so one ought, I suppose, to believe them. Although personally I don't.

● NOT a lot of people know this, but the euro is also a sort of reddish kangaroo. True. The BBC's *Newsnight* had the notion, when the single European currency was first created, of illustrating the story with film clips of the animal. The idea had to be scrapped, though. Not only are the beasts on the point of extinction, they are also far too inactive. They just sit there. I have this on very good authority, although I am not sure if I believe it either. But there must be a moral somewhere.

Jolly Roger

MICHAEL HARDERN, would-be nemesis of the Nationwide, has a fondness for the symbolic gesture. He launched his election campaign yesterday from a replica of the Golden Hind, the ship in which Sir Fran-

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

cis Drake pillaged his way around the world. And did the merry band of carpetbaggers live up to their ruthless predecessors? Slow motion can-cans down the gangplank for the benefit of photographers were none too convincing. Fighting his way through crocodiles of schoolchildren, Hardern was unable to explain how two of his fellow rebels got lost on the way to the event. Hardly a good omen for trans-global piracy. Equally symbolically, the Golden Hind is in a closed dock. Going nowhere.

● THERE must be a joke here about sky pilots, although I am far too God-fearing to make it. Ian Woodward, former public relations

director for civil aircraft at British Aerospace, has just been ordained as a vicar. He is one of the first wave of non-paid civilian clerics now being created by the Church — what you might call barefoot vicars. I suppose, although the authorities prefer the phrase non-stipendiary. He continues at BAe as a part-time consultant but is likely to spend an increasing amount of time on his pastoral duties, as part of a team of vicars running a total of six parishes.

Union discount

IN A novel twist on the old beer and sandwiches routine, the staff association at the NatWest has been handing out designer baggers at a City bar all this week. The final meeting, to drum up support at NatWest Markets and NatWest Stockbrokers, is tonight at the Café Sport Bar on Mansell Street. Rory Murphy, general secretary of the association, says NatWest is fairly well disposed towards him, but Martin Owen, chief executive at NatWest Markets, has refused all meetings. He has no idea why. I wonder if it is connected with his demand at the recent annual meeting for Owen to stand down over a certain missing £90 million?

Tax inquiry

THE windfall tax on excess profits in the Budget. I can exclusively reveal,

is set at 30 per cent of any profits above the average announced for the previous three financial years. The 1992 Budget, that is. David Cruickshank, head of tax at Deloitte & Touche in London, has been searching the archives for the first ever windfall tax, and his research has come up with Rab Butler in 1952. "A hopeful Budget," said *The Times* of the day. I dimly remember some measure during the war years limiting manufacturers to their earlier levels of profit, but perhaps this does not amount to a windfall tax. Deloitte are wondering if anyone can remember an earlier example.

MARTIN WALLER



Rab Butler introduced possibly the first 'windfall tax' in 1952



"No, it's not leaves this time. It's money on the line"

Disposals lose £14m at Powell Duffryn

By OLIVER AUGUST

PRE-TAX profits at Powell Duffryn, the ports and engineering company, increased 5 per cent to £44 million, before a £14.3 million exceptional charge from restructuring.

The charge relates to losses from the disposal of two non-core businesses. The terminals sale left a hole of £11.9 million while the sale of Powell Duffryn Bricks cost £2.4 million.

Barry Harris, chief executive, said: "The reshaping of Powell Duffryn is making good progress. Management action will continue to eliminate weaknesses, capitalise on existing strengths and identify appropriate opportunities to strengthen the portfolio still further. We still have further disposals to make."

The last year is said to have seen "significant progress" in the implementation of the restructuring strategy, with disposals yielding £40 million.

The terminals sale centred around the disposal of eight bulk liquid storage terminals around the world. The company said: "Demand at our terminals had been in decline as the petrochemical sector sought to destock but the capital expenditure requirements for environmental compliance continued unabated."

The sale of Powell Duffryn Bricks also coincided with the company's withdrawal from the coal industry. It said: "These various disposals have largely eliminated the group's exposure to the UK construction sector and to potentially significant environmental liabilities worldwide."

In the year to March 31, post-exceptional pre-tax profits of £30 million went up from £5 million the previous year. Losses per share of 7.6p turned into earnings per share of 15.3p. The dividend remains unchanged at 25p, with a 17p final dividend due on August 8.



Brian Larcombe, left, finance director of 3i, with Ewen Macpherson, the chief executive he succeeds in July. He has pledged to maintain company strategy

3i sets sights on German market after dull performance in UK

By ADAM JONES

BRIAN LARCOMBE, the incoming chief executive of 3i, the venture capital firm, said yesterday that there would be little change in strategy when he takes over from Ewen Macpherson next month.

The two men were unveiling annual results that reflected the relatively dull performance last year by UK smaller to medium-sized companies, as well as a £60 million adverse currency adjustment from unhedged exposure to sterling's strength.

Net asset value rose 14 per cent, from 426p to 486p per

share, slightly below some analysts' expectations. In the year to March 31, 1996, NAV had grown by 23 per cent.

Mr Larcombe, finance director, said competition was increasing in the funding of management buyouts, which accounted for 31 per cent of 3i investments last year. "Quite a number of our competitors have raised substantial new funds."

But a great deal of that money was channelled towards buyouts of more than £100 million, more than 3i normally handles, he added. Although 3i is still over-

whelmingly invested in the UK, the company is targeting Germany this year, with new offices opening in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Munich.

Mr Macpherson said that Scotland had been one of the big growth areas for 3i last year, both in new investment and through increases in existing holdings. Supported sectors included oil services around Aberdeen, as well as technology firms.

Mr Macpherson said 3i's policy of continuing to back start-ups paid dividends. One start-up software company

that floated last October turned a £2 million investment into £35 million.

The total 3i return for the year was £415.5 million, representing a 16.4 per cent return on opening shareholders' funds, below the 18.7 per cent the FT-SE all-share index would have produced, but above the 15.7 per cent gain that would have been recorded by the FT-SE SmallCap index. The figure was held back by weaker performance in continental Europe.

Profits from dividends and other revenue rose from £70

million to £91.3 million, helped by a low tax charge. Capital profits, which include realised and unrealised increases in the value of 3i stakes, fell from £456 million to £323 million. The unrealised values were hit by a general slowing in earnings growth among small companies, as well as a £60 million reduction caused by the strength of sterling. There is a final dividend of 5.7p, making a total of 9.2p, up by 13.6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Cater Allen shares rise after approach

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES of Cater Allen Holdings rose sharply yesterday after the discount house disclosed it had received an approach that may lead to an offer for the company.

No further details were given. James Barclay, chairman, said that talks continued, but a further announcement was unlikely this week. The identity

was not revealed. The shares rose 116p to 557½p, their peak since 1994, valuing the business at almost £182 million.

In its last full financial year Cater Allen suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £14.6 million from £25.9 million, mainly because of provisions against the financial reconstruction of Lloyd's of London.

Cowboy directors under fire

By JON ASHWORTH

UNSCRUPULOUS directors will be named and publicly humiliated, as part of a new government offensive aimed at protecting the consumer.

Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, intends to make an example of so-called "phoenix" directors, who move from company to company, leaving distressed creditors behind. He singled out the "shocking" case of Sharman Communications, a

travel agent and tour operator, which ceased trading in 1994 after just four months, leaving over 700 customers out of pocket. Losses exceeded £400,000.

Mr Griffiths said: "If you are ripping people off, there is no place for you in British business. Let there be no doubt — war has been declared on the cowboy director."

The Insolvency Service, an

executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is to subject rogue directors to even greater scrutiny. Mr Griffiths said: "Once the courts have banned them, we will make every effort to name them and publicise their actions to deter others."

More than 300 directors were banned in the first three months of the year, up from 200 in the same period in 1996.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lasmo bids \$453m to operate Dacion

LASMO, the UK oil and gas company, bid \$453 million for the contract to operate Venezuela's Dacion oilfield, Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), the state oil company, said yesterday. Eleven other consortiums or companies bid for the field, on the fourth day of Venezuela's third round of operating licences auction. Total bids reached \$1.5 billion in the first three days. Lasmo's bid beat by \$51 million the second highest offer by Argentina's Perez Companac and Canada's Norcen Energy Resources.

The field, discovered in eastern Venezuela in 1944, pumps 13,500 barrels per day, the greatest amount among the fields on offer this week, from 111 active wells. Proven reserves are 289 million barrels. Another 134 wells are inactive. Under the 20-year contract, the operator will produce hydrocarbons on behalf of Lagoven, a PDVSA subsidiary, in exchange for a fee worked out on a sliding scale. The operator must also invest at least \$16 million within three years, although PDVSA expects investment to be higher. A total of 131 companies are competing for 20 contracts to be sold this week with the winners determined purely by the size of their bids.

Eldorado in \$194m deal

ELDORADO has signed a \$194 million deal with Gencor to acquire a portfolio of mining, development and exploration assets in Ghana and South Africa. Eldorado's participation will be the first major Canadian investment in a South African mining industry by an overseas mining company. The deal is expected to be concluded by mid-August and consists of two operating gold mines and nine exploration properties. The mining assets includes a 90 per cent interest in the Bogoso Mine, Ghana.

ICI talks complete

ICI Australia and ICI, the parent company in Britain, have completed negotiations over the commercial arrangements between the two groups in advance of the sale of ICI's stake in ICI Australia. ICI Australia will continue to be allowed to use the ICI roundel or registered trademark, although the company will change its name. The two companies have also agreed to co-operate in patents over the next seven years. The two will also co-operate on explosives and surfactants.

Arrests at DKB

TOKYO prosecutors said that they have arrested four officials of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, one of Japan's top commercial banks, on suspicion of lending 11.78 billion yen (£62 million) to a racketeer. The loans violated Japan's Commercial Code, prosecutors said. They added that DKB made the loans through Daiwa Shinyo, a finance firm closely associated with DKB, in 51 instalments from July 1994 to September 1996. The loans were not properly collateralised as required by Japanese law.

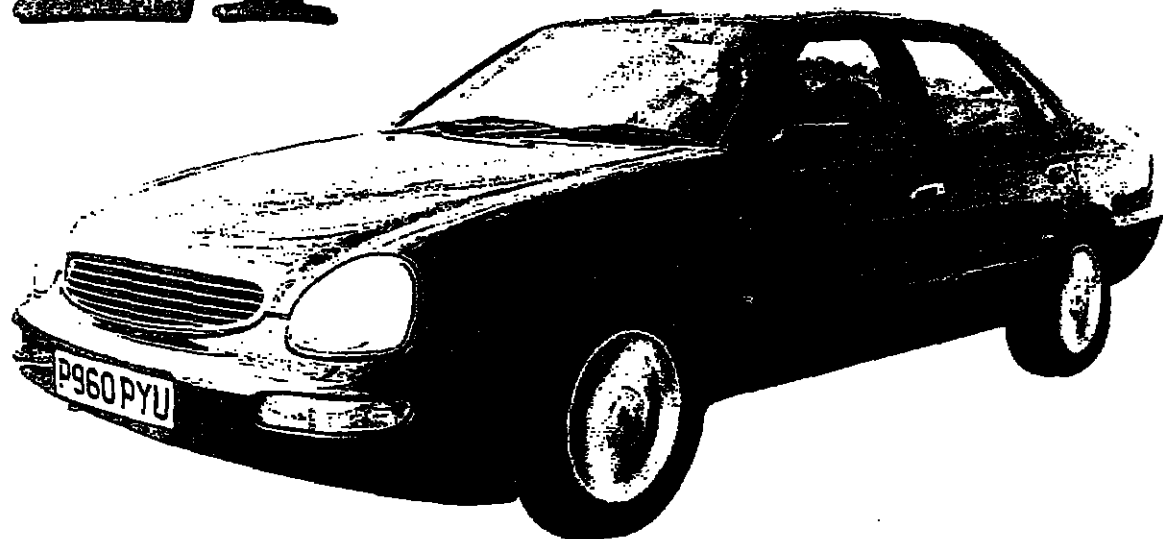
Nomura 'don' called

PROSECUTORS in Japan have summoned for questioning the man once hailed as the "don" of the Japanese stock broking industry before his demise as chairman of Nomura Securities in 1991. Setsuya Tabuchi, 73, was interrogated by a special investigation unit of the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office that is investigating a widening payoff scandal involving Nomura and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank. Prosecutors were expected to summon Yoshihisa Tabuchi, 64, former Nomura president, for additional questioning.

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Messing a



THEATRE 1

Unseasonal: the Globe Theatre's first official summer show is a fine staging of *The Winter's Tale*



THEATRE 2

Despite the exuberant Jerry Lewis, *Damn Yankees* proves barely worthy of revival

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA

The British Youth Opera fights a losing battle to resuscitate *The Gondoliers*



MUSIC

From Bernstein to Billings: a superb American choir reveals the breadth of its native repertoire

THEATRE: The omens for the Globe are a whole lot better, says Benedict Nightingale, than for a smug Fifties musical



Power to move: Mark Lewis Jones is the pick of the performers as Leontes and Belinda Davison makes a fine Hermione, with Polly Pritchett as First Lady

This opening production confirms what last year's sneak preview of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* suggested. The thatched-and-timbered cylinder opposite St Paul's is not going to be a theme-park for trippers or a playpen for academics. The Globe has every chance of making a vital contribution to London's culture.

The fact that David Freeman's cast varies from fair to good, but rises no further, serves only to clinch the point. Yesterday afternoon was often overcast, occasionally drizzly. There was nothing between my bottom and a painfully authentic bench, and not a lot of leg-room. Flying machines passed overhead, variously sounding like gnats and zepplins. And still I was moved when Belinda Davison's Hermione came back to life, and Mark Lewis Jones clutched her with a great howl of "She's warm". How will we feel, then, when exceptional actors get the full measure of that hefty rectangular stage?

Tom Phillips, the designer, fills it with earth and not a lot else. Apart from their odd habit of using truck-tyres for

seats, Leontes's Sicilians seem an archaically Mediterranean lot, with their brown smocks, bangles and superglued hair. Polixenes's Bohemia, with its garlands and floral exotica, looks more Eastern. Either way, the actors have plenty of space in which to move and, thanks partly to the divisions created by the stage's two inbuilt columns, can begin one scene almost before another ends. The result is a splendidly fluent production, if not one with any special point to make about *The Winter's Tale* itself.

True, there are oddities. Why is one of Leontes's courtiers a skeletal, white-faced figure dragged onstage by a cord? Why is Time a battered vagrant wandered in, complete with cider bottle, from Cardboard City? Why sudden-

The Winter's Tale
Globe

ly give claws to Hermione, who has been hovering in spirit over the abandoned Perdina, and ask us to accept that she is the bear who devours Antigonus? But at least such touches proclaim that work at the Globe will not dwindle into heritage Shakespeare in doublets and hose.

Davison makes a fine impression as the wife Leontes rejects and, despite her goofy Mummenset accent, Anna-Livia Ryan a lively one as the daughter he mislays. But the pick of the performers is, as he should be, Jones as Leontes himself. He catches the ache as well as the disgust of a mind

sick with sexual imaginings, and, once he has given rein to his paranoia, he visibly coarsens, loling and crazily grinning, rasping and casually spitting at Hermione and the baby Perdina. But if he continues to roar so loudly so often he will damage his voice.

That is true of several performers. I think the Globe's acoustics are better than they fear, and I hope to encounter subtler, quieter effects in the weeks ahead. My other doubt concerns that dull, samey afternoon light. It emphasises how much we have come to rely on lighting designers to concentrate our attention on this actor or switch it to that one. The Globe presents a special challenge both to directors, who may have to think harder about blocking than is

usual nowadays, and to audiences, who must learn to listen more acutely to words that do, after all, themselves paint everything from morning haze to night-time tempests.

But the omens are good. How refreshing to hear Camillo say he must leave Leontes's court, or Polixenes wonder how he has offended the mad king, and feel that they are not simply playing with their inner worry-heads. They are talking to you, asking you questions, involving you in their fears. At the Globe you, too, are part of the debate. Isn't that what theatre is all about?

An unlikely old devil

Marlowe's *Faust* dreamt of kissing the face that launched a thousand ships, and Goethe's *Faust* of making wonderful journeys over magic mountains. But *Damn Yankees* is an Eisenhower-era musical with a middle-aged, Middle American estate agent at its centre, so its Faustian fantasies are a bit more modest. It is Joe Boyd's casually expressed wish to become his pet baseball team's big hitter that brings Jerry Lewis's highly improbable Satan from Hell to suburban Washington.

I cannot say, however, that Jack O'Brien's revival left me caring whether or not Lewis carried off this homespun soul. Indeed, I found myself intermittently wishing that Dennis Kelly's good old Joe would solve his and my problems by beating himself to death with his baseball bat. But maybe that is

Damn Yankees
Adelphi

because I have an inbuilt resistance to musicals smugly celebrating the values of mid-century America.

For all its occasional wit, that is the tenor of George Abbott and Douglass Wallop's book. No sooner has a transformed Joe started hammering homers into the Potomac than he begins to pine for hearth and home. So John-Michael Flate, who plays Joe's new self as an earnest blend of Clark Kent and Barbie's friend Ken, becomes his wife's lodger.

The comfy ending is visible 100 miles off, so it is left to the baddies to provide the show with energy. April Nixon, playing the vamp Lola, does this with wicked, sinuous charm; but her supposed boss seldom assays anything

as extreme as acting. When he is not exuding po-faced blankness from above his blazer, Jerry Lewis is, well, Jerry Lewis. He intermittently nudges the audience, mugs, comically simpers, and does out-of-character voices. It is about as Mephistophelian as Norman Wisdom.

Still, Lewis fans and nostalgia freaks will doubtless have fun. So, at times, will those who wonder where all the good tunes have gone. Nixon bangs across Adler and Ross's *Whatever Lola Wants Lola Gets* with verve and style, and others sing *Heart* well enough to make you forget that it is actually a paean to mindlessness. The choreography is fine, though those dancing sportsmen look as if they would be happier playing idlywinks than doing tough things at the plate.

● This review appeared in some editions of The Times yesterday



Jerry Lewis (Applegate), John-Michael Flate (Joe Hardy) and April Nixon (Lola)

COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL: Jaded G&S, and a bright American choir

Messing about in leaky boats

If the Covent Garden Festival were actually setting out to illustrate the sad decline of the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership, they could not be doing so with more devastating clarity than by simultaneously staging *Trial by Jury* and *The Gondoliers* — the former a masterpiece of the genre, the latter a rambling, repetitive farraigo that feels more than twice its three hours' running time.

In the last of the series to retain a toe-hold on the repertoire, Gilbert was relying on barely warmed-up old formulae, and in among a handful of good numbers Sullivan failed to avoid the ever-present dangers of tea-shoppe daintiness and front-parlour sentimentality.

It is especially depressing to witness the gaudy social satire of the early works giving way to smug reactionary attitudes, and indeed to see the young artists of British Youth Opera (some of them, frankly, a little long in the tooth to warrant that description) wasting their

OPERA
The Gondoliers
Freemasons' Hall, WC2

talents on this tired, faded stuff. The insertion of topical jokes — as topical as Genista McIntosh and the Camelot board — served only to emphasise the aridity of what surrounded them.

At least Jamie Hayes and Ruari Murchison, producer and designer, make no attempt to suggest a Venetian setting: here are nice, well-scrubbed English gels, and chaps messing about in boats no nearer the Adriatic than Sunningdale. Playing the Grand Inquisitor as an undertaker is a nice enough idea even if it can't be seen through, but there's no point in reproving Hayes for failing to devise a consistent comic style: the text resists any such thing. If eyes-and-teeth energy were

enough — and the cast worked itself silly — his good-natured staging would work, but it isn't.

Timothy Dean, BYO's music director, conducted extremely well, and the singers did what they could in a space that is far from word-friendly. Andrew MacKenzie-Wicks (Louis) and Andrew Hammond (Inquisitor) displayed genuine comic talent as well as singing crispity. Geraldine McGreevy (Casilda) is definitely a talent to watch; Henry Moss (Marco) is already a very useful lyric tenor — *Take a pair of sparkling eyes* went very nicely.

It was sad to see a comic as gifted as Richard Stuart (Duke) working four times as hard as he needed to and inevitably suffering from the law of diminishing returns, and to see Frances McCafferty (Duchess) wasted: she sang her dreadful (often, and rightly, cut) solo embarrassingly well. Tomorrow's repeat is definitely for registered G&S addicts only.

RODNEY MILNES

The Plymouth Music Series of Minnesota may sound like something from the backwoods of a Garrison Keillor novel, but think again. Its founder, conductor Philip Brunelle, is a leading figure in the re-creation of America's musical heritage. Twenty-eight years ago, when he set up the series, he was the first person to ask Aaron Copland to conduct his own choral work *In the Beginning*. His was the groundbreaking recording of Britten's "American" opera, *Paul Bunyan*. He is currently engaged on the four-volume *Witness* (Collins Classics), an anthology of African/American music from early spirituals to 20th-century compositions. Perhaps his zeal for recovering the rare or neglected occasionally gets the better of him. This programme, "Win-

Precisely swung

CONCERT
Ensemble Singers of Minnesota
St Paul's, WC2

ness — 200 years of American choral music", did not altogether do the nation justice. Among the gems were Bernstein's witty chorus from *Candide*, The Best of All Possible Worlds; Copland's radiant *In the Beginning*; and the gracefully simple arrangement of *Witness* by Jack Halloran. But there was also William Billings's (1746-1800) primitive *Universal Praise*, and Arthur Foote's overlong *Vita Nostra Plena Bellis*.

Dominick Argento's 1967 settings of Keats's doggerel

poems were about as undistinguished as the poetry, though made "sunshiny" as he would have wished, by the choir's high spirits. An extraordinary interlude was provided by accompanist Charles Kemper, who launched into the blazing, trigger-happy fugue from Barber's Piano Sonata. But where were Barber's choral pieces — or those of William Schuman?

None of the pieces could have received more persuasive performances, however. The Plymouth Ensemble Singers are an engaging group, polished, bright and brilliantly balanced. They have honed the spirituals with which they closed the concert to an almost over-gilded perfection. Perhaps it is a case of over-arrangement. Dale Adelman's painstakingly slow and precious *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* fails to swing, and is almost exacerbated by the choir's silken sound.

Similarly, Evelyn Simpson-Curenton's *Git on Board* had a virtuosic piano part, but her rationalisation of the original uneven syncopations robbed it of its fast and loose quality. Spirituals, unlike gospels, are the equivalent of hymns. Yet there is a raw, spontaneous quality to the best performances missing from these manicured arrangements sung by a uniformly white choir.

HELEN WALLACE

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POP 1

Hanson, three kid brothers from Oklahoma, look back in innocence on *Middle of Nowhere*



POP 2

... while, at the other end of the age spectrum, Steve Winwood offers solid craft on *Junction Seven*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

Jakob Dylan, son of Bob, leads the Wallflowers in a homage to past styles on *Bringing Down the Horse*



POP 4

... and Peter Hook, once of New Order, goes into Britpop mode on an album with his new band Monaco

The kids are all writing

POP ALBUMS: How did Hanson become the current teen sensation? David Sinclair blames the parents

HANSON

Middle of Nowhere (Mercury 534 615 £13.99)
HANSON remind me of the bumper-sticker urging us to "Employ a teenager now, while they still have all the answers". It is not just that the three Hanson brothers from Tulsa, Oklahoma — Isaac, 16, Taylor, 14, and Zach, 11 — evince such a worldly air in their lyrics: "You have so many relationships in this life/Only one or two will last," they sing on *MMMBop*, the No 1 single in both Britain and America this week. It is that their traditional pop formula is so unnervingly knowing.

Ignoring all developments from the 1980s onwards, they have gone straight to their parents' record collection, absorbed the classic popular sounds of the late 1950s and 1960s, mixed them up with some 1970s soul, and then redeployed the whole as if such music had been invented (by them) yesterday.

The result is *Middle of Nowhere*, an album of middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock, which draws its inspiration, most obviously, from the Beatles and the young Michael Jackson (both simultaneously on *Speechless*, which marries the riff of *Come Together* to a squeaky, pseudo-heavy rock/soul vocal).

None of it is particularly

inspiring, but what would sound inexcusably limp and conservative in the hands of anyone who knew better is at least infused here with an innocent *joie de vivre*. "We've got to change our point of view/If we want the sky blue," they sing in *Where's the Love*, a song about a failing relationship which, like so much of the album, sounds slightly earnest, unfailingly wholesome and effortlessly primed with the simple certainties of youth.

STEVE WINWOOD

Junction Seven (Virgin 7243 8 44059 £13.99)
STEVE WINWOOD was something of a Hanson figure in his day, having joined the Spencer Davis Group at the tender age of 15, before scoring a string of No 1 hits. Now 49, Winwood's boyish charm and zest have long since been replaced by the crafted approach and leisurely workrate of a man whose musical vision is more about poise than passion.

Junction Seven, his seventh solo album, starts off with the relatively energetic *Spy in the House of Love*, a single which conspicuously failed to reach even the Top 75, and then slides into an unchallenging combination of soulful ballads such as *Plenty Lovin'*, which he sings as a smoochy duet with Des'ree, and polite funk grooves including *Just Wanna*



Middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock has made Taylor, Isaac and Zachary Hanson rather more than middlingly successful

Have Some Fun, in which he rails against the tyranny of the rock star's working day with lines such as "It's almost half-past three/And it's time for tea". The gaudy Latin percussion and horn section arrangement

on *Gotta Get Back to My Baby* sounds rather opportunistic, but the only serious black mark is a stiffly lauded version of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* that wipes out all trace of the original's croaky emotion.

Re-released here to coincide with the Wallflowers' British dates earlier this week, *Bringing Down the Horse* is a strong collection of songs steeped in the sturdy rock'n'roll traditions of 30 years ago and more. Although Dylan has probably made more of an effort than most singers not to sound like his father, his is clearly an old head on young shoulders, and the band inevitably ends up echoing old-school artists such as Bruce Springsteen on *Three Marlenas* ("I'm heading out on that highway... I ain't

looking back") and the Rolling Stones on *God Don't Make Lonely Girls*.

Still, at least they do it with panache and a genuine understanding of what this kind of music is about.

MONACO

Music for Pleasure (Polydor 537 242 £13.99)
WHILE the status of New Order remains unclear, the group's bass player Peter Hook has teamed up with singer, guitarist and programmer David Potts to form Monaco. The duo has already tasted success with their first single, *What Do You Want From Me?*, a song blatantly redolent of New Order, but charmingly so. While Potts sounds uncan-

nily like New Order's singer Bernard Sumner, it is Hook's distinctive bass guitar sound and his habit of using the instrument to pick out the melody line on throbbing techno-pop tracks such as *Junk* that is the defining feature of much of *Music for Pleasure*.

Elsewhere, though, songs such as *Buzzgum* and *Blue* sound like a cynical attempt to grab a slice of the Oasis/Britpop action, a bandwagon which has in any case long since departed.

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CHRIS PARKER

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THE WALLFLOWERS

Bringing Down the Horse (Interscope IND 90055 £9.99)
WHETHER it be Julian Lennon, Ziggy Marley or the hapless Jeff Buckley (see Caitlin Moran's tribute on the facing page), the sons of an earlier generation of stars have not found it easy to step outside the shadow of their parents' achievements. Jakob Dylan has done better than most with his group the Wallflowers and, after a

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 (1) | Open Road | Gary Barlow (RCA) |
| 2 (3) | Do It Yourself | Seahorses (Geffen) |
| 3 (2) | Spice | Spice Girls (Virgin) |
| 4 (-) | Wu-Tang Forever | Wu-Tang Clan (Loud) |
| 5 (24) | Always on my Mind | Elvis Presley (RCA) |
| 6 (8) | Romance | Andrea Bocelli (Philips) |
| 7 (10) | Before the Rain | Eternal (EMI) |
| 8 (4) | Blood on the Dance Floor | Michael Jackson (Epic) |
| 9 (7) | White on Blonde | Texas (Mercury) |
| 10 (5) | Republica | Republica (Deconstruction) |

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Figures in brackets denote last week's position

Champagne flute

JAZZ

Lew Tabackin
Pizza Express, W1

THE Philadelphia-born Lew Tabackin is a frequent poll-winner, both for his contribution to the big band he co-leads with his wife, Toshiko Akoyoshi, and for his flute playing. Chris Parker writes. Live, though, he concentrates his formidable improvising powers on the tenor saxophone. As if to emphasise the point for this five-day engagement he is appearing as part of a trio — completed by the British drummer Mark Taylor and Belgian bassist Philippe Aerts — so he is able to luxuriate in the relative harmonic and rhythmic freedom resulting from the absence of a piano.

It was clear Tabackin meant business as soon as he led the band into their first tune, *Come Rain or Come Shine*. Instead of treating Aerts's familiar melody as an easy-paced warm-up lode, he subjected it to a vigorous examination, investigating its possibilities with a thoroughness that recalled not only the rhapsodic self-absorption of Coleman Hawkins, but also the fierce intensity faced with playfulness that characterises the solos of Sonny Rollins, one of Tabackin's strongest influences.

The latter was brought to mind even more readily by the approach Tabackin took with a follow-up number, *Me and My Shadow*. Like Rollins, he is an expert at moulding

apparently unsuitable tunes into perfect improvisational vehicles. Thus, in his hands, the apparent drawbacks of *Shadow* — its slightly plodding tempo, the superficial banality of its melody — were transformed into advantages. Tadd Dameron's pop anthem, *Hot House*, was skillfully woven into a lively trio workout, and Duke Ellington's *Serenade to Sweden* proved hospitable to some smart double-time tenor passages.

But no Tabackin live performance would be complete without his celebrated flute playing, and he chose two typically varied showcases for it. John Coltrane's *Wise One* involved some finely judged work from Aerts, and Juan Tizol's *A Gypsy Without a Song* was both cogent and fluent, showing off Tabackin's pure, full-bodied sound to perfection.

Either would have been a highlight of a flautist's concert — the fact that they were almost incidental to Tabackin's superb tenor display served only to underline just what a consummate musician he is.

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POP 4
...and Peter Hook, once of New Order, goes into Britpop mode on an album with his new band Monsoon

How sweet the sound
MARTIN SPIELKE
FASHION

JAZZ
ALBUMS



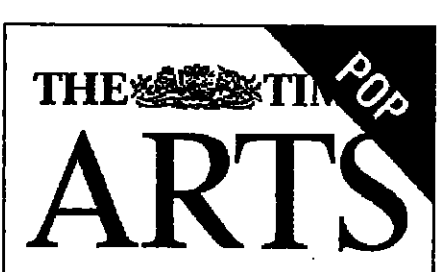
POP 5

Promise cut short: the drowning of Jeff Buckley has robbed music of a true original



POP 6

Never tired of the old classics: Roger McGuinn looks forward to revising *temps perdu*



POP 7

Back together briefly, the Go-Betweens will enliven tomorrow's Fleadh in Finsbury Park



TOMORROW

Stamping at the Savoy: how will the Pet Shop Boys make out on the West End stage?



The magical Jeff Buckley: has the Mississippi River ended a brilliant career only one album old?

Prince of darkness

Life was hard for Jeff Buckley. What will be hard for the rest of us is getting through our own lives without him

There is a hole in your record collection that will never be filled — it looks as though Jeff Buckley is dead. Only one album into his career, Buckley was already approaching legendary status, so laughably beyond any ongoing musical scene it was untrue.

Buckley was a touch of the Dark Stuff. He chronicled the rabid black poisons of love, life's extreme moments, the queasy dialogue of dreams. He was the new Van Morrison, the next Kate Bush, someone whose extraordinary vocal range and musical versatility would spark an astonishing career.

But yesterday week, while working on the follow-up to his 1995 debut album, *Grace*, which won him *Rolling Stone* magazine's Best New Artist Award, Buckley and a friend, Keith Forster, wandered down to a Memphis marina with a portable stereo and a guitar. They played and sang for an hour, before Jeff decided to swim out into the Mississippi River, fully clothed. He waded into the water, still singing, and tried to cajole Forster into following him. When the wake of a passing boat splashed the marina, Forster rescued the stereo and placed it on the bank to keep dry. When he turned back, Buckley had disappeared, apparently sucked under by the wake of the boat. Buckley was 30.

The son of the revered US folk-rock god Tim Buckley, Jeff had a troubled upbringing. In his short life, Tim Buckley released eight albums, a witchy brew of folk,

rock, jazz and blues. Although critically acclaimed as everything short of the cure for cancer, Tim's record sales were in the low thousands, and he took to drugs for comfort like a child sucks its thumb. Tim left Jeff's mother when Jeff was six months old.

Jeff's mother, Mary Guibert, immediately hit the road, chasing work wherever and whenever it became available. Their rootless existence, said Jeff, "gave me strength, insight, resolve. At the same time, it depleted my understanding of what it's like to have a home, or even your own dog for more than a year." Tim Buckley was 28 when he died of a heroin overdose in 1975. Jeff had never met him.

Mary married again, but the pressures of work meant Jeff was left to bring up his younger brother. "I feel I was born old," he said in 1995. "I don't wake up and feel happy if it's a sunny day. You get happy in five-second bursts, and then you wait for the next five-second burst. I've always felt I know too much to be happy."

As his father had, Buckley turned to music for release and

redemption. "To feel the music soar through you changes you utterly," he said. "It changes your posture; you raise your chin, throw your shoulders back, walk with a swagger. When I sing, my face changes shape; it feels like my skull changes shape."

When Buckley sang, it wasn't only his skull that changed shape. Audiences melted in front of him, and the first few rows would buckle when he kicked up one of his vocal twisters. He could go from full-frontal Kurt Cobain scream to operatic lullaby in a breath.

Starting his career in crowded folk cafes in New York, Buckley would start off singing soft and low, pulling the audience in with impassioned whispers, before snapping into vertical take-off and stripping the paint from the ceiling.

Within months, he was signed by Sony. His first album, *Grace*, was astonishing. Although the production veered towards big Queen-like rock at times, the occasional dose of guitar bombast couldn't swamp the ambitious scope of the album: the dolorous, harmonium-led hymn of *Lower*,

You Should Have Come Over still sounds like spring rain after a funeral. *Dream Brother*, dedicated to his father, is a queasy, nightmarish examination of Tim's life, an echo-laden mourning which never concludes or resolves.

Buckley sounded like a scared child, lost in endless darkness. On *Grace*'s release, a herd of adjectives was lassooed into the Hyperbole Corral. Buckley's haunted eyes and pop-royalty cheekbones stared from countless magazines and, while he loathed the star-system and the fuss, Sony prepared itself to guide the career of a high-sales prestige artist.

However, various rumours started to circulate through the industry. Many concerned a suspected heroin problem — and Buckley's behaviour certainly became erratic. He told of dreams in which a sculptor took a razorblade to his skin, and started plaiting and twisting the strands until Buckley became a living, immobile work of art. Work on *Grace*'s follow-up was delayed. Buckley told his band to leave town while he wrote new songs. Last December, he posted a note on his Internet Website, explaining that he was "in the middle of some wild s*** right now. Please be patient. I'll come out of my hole and will make bonfires out of ticket stubs come the autumn." But the last concert was probably to an audience of one, on the banks of the Mississippi River, eight days ago.



CAITLIN MORAN

At peace with himself, Roger McGuinn invites you on a trip through his past

Early Byrds still catching the warm

When Roger McGuinn last visited Britain six years ago he seemed irritable and unhappy. He did not want to talk about the Byrds, or his relationship with Bob Dylan, or his born-again Christianity, which led to some rather limited conversation — if you got to talk to him at all. Many of his interviews were cancelled at zero notice.

Since then the man whose jangle-guitar sound on all those classic Byrds hits is still being copied 30 years on, appears to have discovered the art of growing old gracefully. Now he is 54, McGuinn's grumpiness has been transformed into charm and affability; he is at ease with himself and happy to discuss anything you care to ask about his career.

The approach extends to his first tour of Britain for a decade. Audiences can look forward to a mellow evening of nostalgia. "It's just me and my 12-string guitar playing the old songs and telling some stories about those times," he says. "There may be one or two new songs, but I don't write a lot these days."

So have the creative juices dried up? "I write with Camilla [his wife and manager] when the need arises. We have a house on the beach in the

Gulf of Mexico, which is very peaceful, and we go down there to work on new songs," he says.

But not that many: McGuinn has produced a single solitary studio album in the past 20 years. His current live album, *Roger McGuinn Live From Mars*, contains only two new songs among the venerable classics and cover versions. Is there a fresh album of his own material in the offing? "I'd like to do that sometime in the next year or two," he answers vaguely.

Of course, when your repertoire includes *Turn, Turn, Turn*, *Eight Miles High* and *So You Want To Be A Rock'n'Roll Star* — not to mention that still magical version of *Mr Tambourine Man* — the pressure to produce new material cannot be that great. Does he ever tire of singing songs that made him famous? "Not really. They are like favourite grown-up children. They're new to me every time I do them and I get a vicarious pleasure out of other people's appreciation. If it ever gets to be a grind I put the song away." At one time, he even grew fed up with *Chestnut Mare*, although that classic is now back in the set.

If his recent creative output has been small, McGuinn has been far from idle. "I played

I am very excited about getting back to the essence



Roger McGuinn and his trusty old 12-string await the pleasure of your company at a concert hall soon

150 dates last year, and it is the same most years. We are pretty much on the road."

These days he tries to make his shows more than a collection of songs, littering his set with fascinating anecdotes and delightful asides. He tells a rather good joke about Dylan's out-of-time voice, reveals that David Crosby disliked *Mr Tambourine Man* because it had too many words and explains how *Eight Miles High* was initially only seven. McGuinn is a natural storyteller, and makes you eager to read the autobiography he has been working on for the past eight years. "The show is an outgrowth of that text," he says. "I started thinking what a soundtrack of this book would be like — and this show is it."

Apart from touring, the one activity that does seem to stir McGuinn is the Internet. He has his own World Wide Web site (www.mcguinn.com) with a link to the Folk Den, where every month he puts up a new recording of a traditional song such as *Salor Lad* or *Alberta*. Users can download the music and find lyrics, guitar chords and other information. "I wanted to preserve the old songs and make them accessible to a new generation," McGuinn says.

The service reflects McGuinn's feeling that his career has come full circle with a

return to his folk roots. "Folk music is new again," he says. "We've been through the syntheses — jazz rock, space rock — and now I am very excited about getting back to the essence."

Above all, McGuinn is a survivor in a business with a high casualty rate. Of the original Byrds lineup — Michael Clarke and Gene Clark are both dead, as are later members Gram Parsons and Clarence White. "I was just as abusive as anyone, but I slowed down and I gave up cocaine 20 years ago," McGuinn explains.

He also credits his membership of the California-based Church of the Way. "Christianity has been a balancing factor," he says. "It gives me a sense of stability and a realisation that making rock'n'roll hit records is not the greatest achievement you can imagine. But I'm still flattered that the music has woven itself into the fabric of our culture."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

• Roger McGuinn Live From Mars is released by Polydor. McGuinn plays Manchester University tomorrow; Birmingham Ronnie Scott's on Sunday; Cambridge Corn Exchange June 11; The Stables, Wavendon June 12; London Shepherd's Bush Empire June 13; Wilburston June 14; Leeds June 16; Portsmouth June 18

No comeback, but...

Adored by the critics; ignored by the public. The story of Australia's Go-Betweens is a textbook example of the often huge disparity between artistic and commercial success.

Revered as poetic champions who have composed some of the most literate, intelligent and joyous pop music of the past two decades, Robert Forster and Grant McLennan are back together again for a brief tour that will see them play their first consecutive UK dates since they appeared in 1989, a year before the Go-Betweens split up.

"It's just a way of celebrating 20 years of wonderful music," McLennan says. "I think it's beautiful to be such a cherished thing."

Although reunion tours are these days almost as fashionable as tribute bands, the Go-Betweens have no greatest hits album to promote, nor do they plan to record new material together. "I'm very, very happy with the back catalogue. It's a life story, it really is," says McLennan.

That story's opening chapters were set in 1978 in Brisbane. "It wasn't as if Grant and I were jamming to Chuck Berry records when we were 12," says Forster. "That's not our story. But we had been friends long before the band started."

Surprisingly, it was a film project that eventually coaxed Forster and McLennan to pool their creative talents once more; they have collaborated on a screenplay titled *Sydney Creeps*. "It's a romantic thriller set in Brisbane," Forster says. "It involves lots of local colour, surfing, religion..."

While the creative nucleus of the band consists of the deceptive melodies and breathtaking lyricism of Forster's and McLennan's songs, the current four-piece lineup for the UK dates is augmented by young Brisbane-based newcomers Ross MacLennan — no relation — on drums and Ediel Pickvance on bass and backing vocals.

"Pickvance means pointy beard in Dutch," says Forster, delighting, as ever, in absurdity. "She says she's descended from Vikings," McLennan adds.

The new rhythm section makes for an altogether more dynamic sound than the skewed rhythmic patterns in which the Go-Betweens of old dabbled.

Forster, a magnetic character who exudes the aristocratic charm of a French count, has such presence it's hard to take your eyes off him, on or off stage. McLennan, a healthy-looking 39-year-old like his partner, exudes a general air of contentment. Is he filled with the same sense of romanticism now that informs the songs he wrote ten years ago?

OK, so why are those Australian cult icons, the Go-Betweens, back together?

"In a harsh world your skin gets thicker or your heart gets bigger," McLennan says. "Maybe you internalise things more. I still face the same struggle of trying to find beautiful things in the world." The beautiful things he found and sang about then still have the capacity to bring grown men to tears, as was shown at their Dublin gig. A predominantly male, rather bookish audience was left completely spellbound by an unforgettable show.

How does the band feel about the assertion that, as one journalist put it, the typical Go-Betweens fan is a bespectacled angst-ridden bloke with no girlfriend, who will attend the gig on his own? Forster and McLennan glance at each other, a little ruffled. "That may have been the case early on in our career," McLennan says. "But those people go and see Blur now." It is also said that people who idolised the Go-Betweens were inspired to form bands themselves or even become rock journalists, as the purple prose of their old press clippings suggest. "I apologise for that," jokes McLennan.

NICK KELLY

• The Go-Betweens play the Garage, Glasgow, tonight; Fleadh, Finsbury Park, London tomorrow; and the Forum, Kentish Town, London, on Monday



Go-Betweens Robert Forster (left) and Grant McLennan

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CHOICE 2

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VENUE: From tonight at St James's Piccadilly

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Perfect match: Sir Charles Mackerras conducts a revival of *Le nozze di Figaro*

VENUE: From tomorrow at Glyndebourne

VISUAL ART

The architect Sandy Wilson displays his superb drawings collection in Chichester

A good head for figures

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork admires the architect Sandy Wilson's collection of pictures, now on show in Chichester



Lucian Freud's youthful *Self-portrait with Iris (sic) in a Pot* (1947-48)

The richness of Bomberg's legacy is disclosed in work by two of his most outstanding students. Frank Auerbach's taut little engravings are based on drawings he made of female nudes in the early 1950s. They have a young man's attack, emerging from a dark, tangled mass of impetuously incised lines. But the figures themselves are notable for their economy, and their fierce angularity does not disguise Auerbach's awareness of his models' fundamental vulnerability.

Dennis Creffield, by contrast, is obsessed with buildings. His magnificent charcoal study of Charles is a tour de force, attentive to the intricacy of the rearing Gothic spires yet at the same time vaporous and free. If medieval architecture dominates the examples of his work in Wilson's collection, Creffield is equally able to summarise the modernist dynamism of New York in forceful, bristling strokes.

In a sense, Wilson's taste is catholic. It embraces at one extreme the surgical exactitude of Lucian Freud's youthful self-portrait, where the artist's mesmerising gaze turns away from the hyacinth (called by him an iris) delineated with microscopic zeal in a nearby pot. But Wilson also savours the looseness of Giacometti's superb portrait of the elderly, bedridden Matisse.

Propped up on pillows only a year before he died, the master's bulky body seems on the verge of dissolution in the web of lines generated by Giacometti's restless pencil. Matisse's eyes still burn with intensity, though, as well as revealing the frustration of a man no longer physically able to work with his former energy.

Wilson delights in the precise linear economy of Peter de Francia's lacerating *Disparates* as much as he savours the raging wildness of late Kitaj. In the end, however, all these diverse ways of drawing are united by a single, overriding allegiance. For Wilson has always remained obstinately loyal to the figurative image. Its persistence, throughout an age of anarchic experiment where abstract art finds no place, is celebrated in a collection where abstract art finds no place.

■ The Art of Drawing at Pallant House, Chichester (01243 774557) until June 21

Unlike so many modern architects, Sandy Wilson has always relished artists and their work. When his British Library building eventually opens, it will boast important commissions from R.B. Kitaj and Eduardo Paolozzi. Without Wilson's stubborn personal commitment, their ambitious contributions would never have survived the endless vicissitudes suffered by the library project over the decades. And the same passionate resolve lies behind the remarkable collection he has amassed, often through close friendships with the artists concerned.

If premises can be secured and funds raised, all Wilson's pictures will be given to Pallant House in Chichester. Its Queen Anne interior already displays a choice array of images bequeathed by two distinguished collectors, Walter Hussey and Charles Kearsley. But their paintings belong to an earlier part of the 20th century, whereas many of Wilson's holdings are by contemporary artists. His gift will complement Pallant House's existing pictures perfectly, and the selection of drawings now on loan from Wilson's collection proves just how discerning his acquisitive eye has been.

Many of them show artists thinking aloud, juggling with alternatives and discarding initial ideas as they move towards the authority of the final painting. In three cases, Wilson owns the canvas as well as its preliminary studies, and he shows them together at Pallant House with rewarding effect. Patrick Caulfield's celebrated early *Portrait of Juan Gris* underwent a startling metamorphosis. According to the modest studies, he began by planning a homage to Cézanne. The familiar bearded figure was placed against a window and then isolated on a jagged plinth with the bizarre name "SUR - EALIST" running behind his head. Caulfield subsequently transformed him into Gris, an artist who still influences him enormously. But the pair of hesitant little sketches he produced both lack the assured, clear-cut finality of the heraldic oil painting.

No such gap separates Sickert's pencil and chalk drawing for *Jack Ashore* from the canvas. They share a similar looseness and acute feeling for the shabby, dimly-lit interiors he cherished. Executed in 1912, not long

after his infamous series devoted to the Camden Town murder, their blurred eroticism is still laced with hints of impending violence. Sickert could not let go of the subject. As late as 1923 he returned to it in an etching, where the shadowy sailor peering so lasciviously at the plump woman on her bed could almost be the artist himself.

One of the cross-currents running through this immensely stimulating show centres on the relationship between artists and their students. David Bomberg, whose work Wilson has collected with special avidity, once attended Sickert's classes. And the

large charcoal and crayon study Bomberg made in 1926 for *The South-East Corner, Jerusalem* is squared up in a grid, according to a system he learnt from his teacher. The drawing reduces the domed city and its surrounding hills to a few skeletal contours. Their toughness reminds us that, before the First World War, Bomberg had been a revolutionary artist dedicated to extreme renewal. The concern with underlying structure never left him, even though the painting of *The South-East Corner, Jerusalem* defines a carefully observed scene with swift, luminous fidelity.

Talk goes for goals

This column perhaps ought to carry a black border in (temporary) memory of Radio 5's long wave, which gave itself over to Test match cricket, starting yesterday. So for 30 days this summer Radio 4 addicts who cannot get, or cannot find, an FM signal will have nothing to do but write to Feedback.

Stranger things are happening elsewhere in radio sport. On Wednesday Radio 5 Live carried commentary on England's football victory over Italy in France. For the first time, the BBC was not the only British broadcaster carrying the game. Talk Radio, the only national commercial speech

station, also had the game live. Indeed Talk is carrying all the matches in the Tournoi de France, whereas 5 Live is taking only the England games. Both networks know that there is a limited British audience for, say, France versus Italy, but Talk needs to build a soccer profile rapidly, for it has bigger fish to fry.

As reported yesterday, Talk is about to start negotiating with the FA Premier League to carry commentary from 1999 onwards. The present four-

RADIO

Alan Green and Mike Ingham, has two outstanding commentators. Tony Lockwood of Talk is no slouch, but he is no Green, either. But never mind the quality, feel the greenbacks. Talk executives privately admit that their chances of seizing the contract on quality are slim, but they are equally certain that the availability of sponsorship gives them a bidding edge over the BBC.

The Premier League has lots of money and sometimes resembles a privatised utility in its fondness for acquiring more, so the size of the Talk would could well influence its decision. If radio commentary went to Talk, the BBC would have no live league football on either radio or TV.

Nothing was brought down from the mountain by Moses saying that when God invented football only the BBC would cover it. ITV and Sky have shown that others can do just as well. But the evidence suggests that when it comes to football on radio, nobody does it better than the BBC. But will it?

PETER BARNARD

LONDON

CARMEN The success of Antonio Gades's *Carmen* has prompted the addition of an extra performance. Peacock, Portugal Street (0171-314 8000). Sunday, 3pm.

LUFTHANSA FESTIVAL OF BAROQUE MUSIC The 19th season opens tonight (7.30pm) with Joshua Rifkin directing the Bach Ensemble in a programme of music by J.S. Bach, including a performance of the Lutheran Mass in G, using one voice to a part, and the cantata *Friede auf Erden*, with Schütz, Tannoway, at 7.30pm, for Boyton directs the St James's Baroque Players in two more of Bach's cantatas, *Auf schmelzende Tränen* and *Hercules auf dem Scheitelpfade*. St James's Church, Piccadilly (0171-437 5553). Until June 28.

MOVE IT - MUSIC FESTIVAL The art of mime and related forms of physical theatre are celebrated in a weekend of performance in the open air. Victoria Embankment Gardens, Victoria Street WC2 (0171-375 0441). Tomorrow and Sunday, 2-6pm.

NOT THE ROYAL ACADEMY 1997 The annual Salon des Refusés opens today, featuring a large collection of the paintings rejected from the Royal Academy's summer exhibition. Llewellyn Alexander Gallery, 124-126 The Cut, SE1 (0171-622 1322). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm. Until September 6.

ALWAYS Believe it or not, the King and Mrs Simpson play part in music (by William May and Jason Scroggie), starring Jim Hartley and Celine Carter. That's all, folks! Victoria Street, SE1 (0171-317 1317). New season, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Opens June 10, 7pm.

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NEW RELEASES

ALIVE AND KICKING (15) Lively drama, with Jason Fanning and Anthony Sheen. Written by Martin Sherman, directed by Nancy Medler. ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-336 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148).

COOL AIR (15) Nasty presences. Nicky Katt plays. Furious rollercoaster ride, with Nicolas Cage. ABC: Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

CRASH (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Only cinema in partnership, with J.G. Ballard's novel. With James Spader and Holly Hunter. ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-336 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

MEN, WOMEN & MEN'S MANUAL (15) Comedy. With Michael Caine. ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-336 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

CINEMA GUIDE

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Best picture. ABC: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-336 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG) Keanu Reeves. ABC: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-336 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-336 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

THE INFORMER (PG) John Ford's 1936 classic, with Victor McLaglen as the hard-boiled informer during the 1920 Irish Revolution. Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223). Clapham Picture House (0171-496 3223).

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxwell

ELSEWHERE Birmingham: Piano duo conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in music by Leonard Bernstein. With Wayne Marshall, piano, and John Mark, violin. In and of St Mary's Hospital Development Appeal. Birmingham, Broad Street (0121-213 3333). Tomorrow, 7pm.

CARDIFF Welsh National Opera presents a revival of David Pountney's production of Janáček's *From the House of the Dead*, opening here tonight for one performance only, before touring to the Birmingham Hippodrome on June 12, and to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on June 13. Cardiff, Cardiff Bay (01222 678668). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm.

DARTINGTON The annual showcase of work by West Country artists, the Dartington Arts Summer Exhibition, opens tomorrow, featuring various

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

HOUSE FULL, returns only Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

THE GOODBYE GIRL Gary Whetton, Ann Cunniff and Sheena Powell in the Hammer/Zipper musical version of Neil Simon's play. Dances danced by one actor and landed with another gradually finds love. Ash, Directed by Gary Whetton. Ash, 101-103 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-336 6148). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

HENRY V The first full season on yet new old Elizabethan stage (not actually Shakespeare's) opens with Matt Ryan, playing Hal in Richard III's all-time production. Shakespeare's (Aldwych), 101-103 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-336 6148). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

MASTER CLASS Part of the new series of plays by the same writer, as a young man plays the great duet puts aspiring opera singers through their paces. Leonard Foglia directs. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Rachel Kavanagh's delightful production, alert to the comedy and the mystery. Edmondia costumes. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

POPCORN Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A farcical director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers great playing by Pollock O'Leary and (New) David Ikin. Dances danced by one actor and landed with another gradually finds love. Ash, Directed by Gary Whetton. Ash, 101-103 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-336 6148). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

LONG RUNNERS Blood Brothers. Phoenix (0171-369 1733). A. B. Baker Street (0171-369 1733). A. B. Baker Street (0171-369 1733). A. B. Baker Street (0171-369 1733).

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (Aldwych) 101-103 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-336 6148). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed, 3pm. Sat, 2pm.

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Grant of leave for review suspends delay

Regina v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte A

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Iain Gildewell

[Judgment May 16]

Where leave to apply for judicial review had been granted it was not open to the court, on the hearing of the substantive application for judicial review, to dismiss the substantive challenge on the ground of undue delay pursuant to Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, unless hardship, prejudice or detriment would be caused to any person within the meaning of section 20(6)(b) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, dismissing the appeal of the applicant, A, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Popplewell on December 15, 1995 of her substantive application for judicial review on the ground of undue delay.

The applicant had applied for compensation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board alleging that she had been raped and battered during a burglary at her home in May 1991.

On August 31, 1993 following an oral hearing by three board members her application was refused. On October 17, 1994 the applicant applied for leave to challenge that decision. On February 14, 1995 Mr Justice Carnwath had granted leave to move for judicial review.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Miss Elizabeth Woodhall for the applicant; Mr Michael Kent, QC for the board.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that main issue on the appeal was whether, absent hardship, prejudice or detriment, it was open to the court on the hearing of a substantive judicial review motion, for which leave had been granted, to dismiss the challenge on the ground of undue delay as the judge did.

The issue had not been the subject of decision save only by Mr Justice Webster in *R v Tavistock*

General Commissioners, Ex parte Worth [1985] STC 564, a decision which was later approved obiter by Lord Justice Evans in the Court of Appeal in *Patterson v Greenwich London Borough Council* [1993] 26 HLR 159.

In considering the issue it was necessary to keep in mind the two legislative provisions governing delay.

First, Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided: "An application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made promptly and in any event within three months from the date when grounds for the application first arose unless the court considers that there is good reason for extending the period within which the application shall be made."

The words in the first line "leave to apply for" were added by amendment (SI 1987 No 1429) to reflect the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, Ex parte Jackson* [1985] 1 WLR 1319 which had in any event construed the word "application" to mean the application for leave.

Next, section 31 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided: "(b) Where the High Court considers that there has been undue delay in making an application for judicial review, the court may refuse to grant (a) leave for making the application, if it considers that the granting of the relief sought would be likely to cause substantial hardship to, or substantially prejudice the rights of, any person or would be detrimental to good administration."

(7) Subsection 6 is without prejudice to any enactment or rule of law which has the effect of limiting the time within which an application for judicial review may be made.

The interrelation between those various provisions was considered by the House of Lords in *R v Daily Produce Quota Tribunal for England and Wales, Ex parte Casswell* [1990] 2 AC 738.

Although Casswell did not directly address the present issue,

Lord Justice Evans in *Patterson*, and Mr Justice Popplewell in the present case, appeared to have found in it support for the view that more delay could warrant refusal of relief even if relief would be granted on the merits.

That had been Mr Justice Webster's conclusion in *Worth*, decided, of course, before Casswell or even Jackson.

Mr Kent sought to uphold the judge's decision on two alternative bases.

First, in reliance on *Worth* and *Patterson*, he contended that the initial grant of leave decided whether or not there was good reason for extending time, and thus as to the propriety of the grant of leave, so that the judge at the substantive hearing was entitled to decide that matter afresh after parties without even the benefit of the initial grant of leave by the respondent to set the leave aside.

Second, on the particular facts of the present case, he submitted that Mr Justice Carnwath never actually did extend time but rather, in the manner envisaged by Mr Justice Webster in *Worth*, gave leave "without prejudice to the question of time". That, therefore, he argued, was to be regarded as a conditional grant of leave, that is, leave conditional on the judge at the substantive hearing finding good reason to extend time.

Whatever be the answer to point 1, the critical question, his Lordship would certainly reject point 2. There was no provision in the rules for a conditional grant of leave and clearly Mr Justice Carnwath was intending no such thing. The order was "leave granted".

In short, his Lordship saw no more reason than did Mr Justice Webster in *Worth* to distinguish between the general rule of cases where leave was given despite delay and those where it was given, in whatever terms or belief "without prejudice".

The same rule must apply to

both. The question was: what rule? That was the central question.

It seemed to his Lordship logical to construe those provisions as Mr Blake invited the court to do: to treat the application for leave and the substantive hearing as two distinct stages: to grant leave unless

(a) there was no good reason for extending time (rule 4(1)) or

(b) it was already apparent that the eventual grant of relief would be likely to cause hardship, prejudice or detriment (section 31(6)(b)).

and to accept that once one considered that substantive hearing delay was only relevant on section 31(6)(b) grounds.

Once time had been extended by the grant of leave then that, unless the leave was later set aside, was that. There would be no definition of the application, so that the judge at the substantive hearing could be refused under section 31(6)(b) if it would cause hardship, prejudice or detriment.

Absent any such thing, however, the court could not simply cancel the earlier extension of time as if leave had never been given and the substantive application had never been made.

If, at the substantive hearing it appeared that the grant of relief would be likely to cause hardship, prejudice or detriment, then clearly the reasons for the earlier delay might come back into play.

But by the stage the applicant would have established his substantive challenge and the question would be: should the applicant have to suffer the hardship, prejudice or detriment which could result from his being quashed?

It was also into that balance that the earlier undue delay must then be put, its weight in the scales being affected principally by the following considerations:

(i) The length of the delay in seeking leave.

(ii) The extent to which the

applicant was to blame for the undue delay.

(iii) The extent, if at all, to which the hardship, prejudice or detriment that would result from the quashing, resulted also from the delay.

(iv) Whether the applicant could be shown to have misled the court when he obtained leave.

In short, quite different questions arose with regard to delay depending on whether the point was raised at the leave stage or at the substantive hearing.

At the leave stage, putting section 31(6)(a) aside, the question was whether there was good reason for extending time and allowing the substantive application to be set aside.

That involved consideration both of the reasons for the delay and the apparent merits of the challenge: the better the prospects of success, the readier would the court be to extend time even where the delay was unjustifiable; that is, the merits themselves could contribute to or even supply the good reason.

At the substantive hearing, however, the question was whether, in a case where there was initially undue delay, which might have been wholly justifiable, the merits of the challenge, by now actually established, should be overridden by the hardship, prejudice or detriment that would result from the grant of relief.

It followed that his Lordship regarded *Worth* as having been wrongly decided and Mr Justice Popplewell to have erred in dismissing the present challenge on the ground of delay.

His Lordship went on to consider the merits of the substantive application and concluded that the applicant had failed to make good either ground of her substantive challenge with the result that her appeal failed, albeit for very different reasons to those given by the judge.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON and Sir Iain Gildewell agreed.

Solicitors: Miller Parris, Worthing; Treasury Solicitor.

Use of statutory checklist can assist judges

B v B (Minor: Residence order)

Before Lord Justice Potter and Mr Justice Holman

[Judgment May 12]

Judges should not ignore the welfare checklist in section 1(3) of the Children Act 1989 in disputes over the residence of children just because neither party had made complaints against the other. Use of the checklist was a useful discipline which might assist in clarifying the reasons for a judge's decision.

The Court of Appeal so observed allowing an appeal by a mother against a decision of Mr Recorder Holmes in Cambridge County Court on November 11, 1996 ordering that the son aged six of her marriage to the father reside with the father and directing that the case be reheard before Judge Bromley, QC.

Miss Christina Morris for the mother; Mr Michael Yellon for the father.

MR JUSTICE HOLMAN said the recorder had made no error of law, nor was he plainly wrong. But his judgment failed to indicate the reasons for his decision in a finely balanced case.

The Court of Appeal could only assess whether or not the judge

had failed to take relevant matters into account or taken account of irrelevant matters if the judge's decision set out reasons with sufficient detail and clarity.

A judgment was not to be approached like a summing-up. It was not an assault course. Judges were working under enormous pressure and the Court of Appeal would not interfere simply because an extempore judgment was not as polished or thorough as it otherwise might be.

A single sentence in the judgment which the recorder regarded as decisive might have been all that was needed.

The Court of Appeal must be entitled to interfere when it was in the end impossible to discern why the recorder reached the decision he did. The more finely balanced the case, the slower the court should be to do so. In *re N (Minors) (Residence)* [The Times April 6, 1995; 1995] 2 FLR 230.

Nevertheless, it was precisely because the decision in this case was so finely balanced that in his mind tipped the balance one way rather than another.

If the reasons were obvious they could be inferred but they were not and his Lordship was left with a

feeling that the decision might be wrong since he did not know the reasons for it.

The appeal would be allowed the matter remitted for rehearing before a suitably qualified circuit judge.

In his judgment the recorder had referred to the checklist in section 1(3) of the Children Act 1989. He had said: "It has been put to me that I need not be troubled by any of the matters in that checklist simply because neither of the parties make numerous complaints against the other."

It had certainly been said by the Court of Appeal that it was not necessary to go item by item through section 1(3) but the checklist did represent an extremely useful and important discipline and ensured that all relevant matters in a case were considered and balanced.

It was not a good reason for not going through the checklist that neither party had made complaints against the other. Had the recorder gone through the checklist his reasons might have emerged with clarity and the need for the appeal and rehearing been obviated.

Solicitors: Aldrich Shaw, Holloway; Lee Davies & Co, Harlow.

Apportioning costs among multiple clients

Baylis v Kelly and Others

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment May 21]

In taxing the bills of costs issued by a solicitor, on separate retainers, to a number of defendants to the same action, the overriding principle for the court was that each client was to be charged only with the costs proper to his own defence.

General costs, which could not be attributed to particular clients, on the basis of separate defences or distinct issues, had to be apportioned pro rata.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing an application by McBride Wilson & Co for review of a decision of Master Wright dated July 22, 1996.

Mr Nicholas Bacon for the applicant.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the applicant solicitor had been retained on behalf of three defendants in a Queen's Bench action commenced by writ. The first defendant controlled a limited company, the third defendant, which employed the second defendant.

Nine days before the hearing date a legal aid certificate was issued to the first defendant alone.

On October 24, 1994 judgment was entered for the plaintiff against all three defendants for damages to be assessed, and taxation was directed, with the usual proviso in relation to the legally aided defendant, of costs to be paid to the plaintiff.

On the discharge of the first defendant's legal aid certificate his costs fell to be taxed in accordance with regulation 107A of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339) and the Legal Aid in Civil Proceedings (Remuneration) Regulations (SI 1994 No 228). Regulation 107A was inserted by the Civil Legal Aid (General) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1994 No 229). The applicant, being dissatisfied with the initial taxation, obtained a review by a taxing master.

Still dissatisfied, he applied by summons for a review by a judge under Order 62, rule 35. The taxing master had applied what he described as "the basic principle", namely that "where solicitors act for legally aided and non-legally aided clients, the costs should be divided equally between them, but that the proportion could be in an appropriate case be adjusted."

Counsel for the first defendant justified a departure from a pro rata apportionment on a number

of grounds, including that the third defendant had been a merely nominal defendant, the first (legally aided) defendant being the main protagonist.

The solicitor had treated the third defendant as the person responsible for the costs of the action up until the grant of the legal aid certificate.

Counsel had also argued that, by failing to require any contribution, under regulation 32 of the 1989 Regulations, in respect of the interests of the second and third defendants, the Legal Aid Board must be taken to have accepted responsibility for the whole costs of the defence.

But it was clear from regulation 32(1) that the question which the area director had to consider was whether it was reasonable and proper for the second and third defendants to defray so much of the costs of the proceedings as would be payable out of the fund if a certificate were issued.

But he would know that in the course of taxation the court would, applying the normal apportionment rules, exclude costs properly attributable to, and payable by, those other defendants. So those costs would not be payable out of the fund.

Solicitors: McBride Wilson & Co.

Unauthorised use of computer data

Director of Public Prosecutions v Bignell and Another

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment May 16]

A person who was authorised to secure access to computer material who did so for an unauthorised purpose did not commit an offence under section 1 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way of case stated from Southwark Crown Court (Judge Watts and Justices) which had allowed an appeal by Paul Bignell and Victoria Bignell from their convictions by Mr Nicholas Evans, Bow Street Metropolitan Magistrate for securing unauthorised access to computer material, contrary to section 1 of the 1990 Act.

Mr Peter Doyle for the defendants; Mr Michael Bowles for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ASTILL said that the defendants were two police officers who had extracted details of two motor cars from the police computer for private purposes.

The defendants were authorised to access the information on the computer but were not permitted

to use the information for non-police purposes.

The prosecution had submitted that a police officer who secured access to the police computer for a non-police purpose secured unauthorised access, which was unlawful under section 1 of the Act.

In his Lordship's judgment the purpose of the 1990 Act was to criminalise the breaking into of computer systems, known as "hacking"; it was the Data Protection Act 1984 which criminalised the improper use of data.

If a person was entitled to control access to the material in question then access was not unauthorised, following section 17(5)(a) of the 1990 Act.

The defendants were in fact entitled to control access in at least two of the ways set out in section 17(2). Therefore, the defendants had authority to access, even though they did not do so for an authorised purpose.

His Lordship added that that did not leave a lacuna in the law, because the defendants could have been charged under section 52(b) of the 1984 Act.

LORD JUSTICE PILL agreed.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Landlord's right of re-entry is not a security

Razzaq v Pala

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment May 15]

Forfeiture by re-entry for non-payment of rent by a bankrupt was not the enforcement by a secured creditor of his security since the right of re-entry was not a security and the landlord was not a secured creditor for the purposes of the Insolvency Act 1986.

The landlord's right to forfeit was not a remedy against the property of the bankrupt because the exercise of the right of forfeiture did not remedy any pre-existing breach of covenant; it merely prevented the tenant from obtaining relief to the landlord from a defaulting tenant.

It followed that the landlord had validly re-entered the premises on the non-payment of rent by the tenant, but in view of the tenant's promise to pay before re-entry and his payment very shortly after the forfeiture, and the hardship occasioned by the loss of his business premises and means of livelihood, it was just to grant the tenant relief from forfeiture and an order that possession be restored to terms.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held, allowing the appeal of the tenant, Mr Abdul Razzaq, from the dismissal of his summons for relief by Deputy Master Iw on February 25, 1997, and granting relief from forfeiture for non-payment of rent and ordering that possession be restored by the landlords, Mr Zaverilal Pala and Mr Bipin Zaverilal Pala, to the tenant on terms. The landlords were awarded 75 per cent of their costs. Leave to appeal was granted.

MR JOHN MACHILL for the tenant; Mr Martin Hutchings for the landlords.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the tenant's appeal raised unresolved questions as to the effect of the bankruptcy of a tenant on the right of a landlord peace-

ably to re-enter and forfeit the lease. The tenant under a lease fell into arrears with the payment of rent. The tenant was then bankrupt. During the period of his bankruptcy the landlord peaceably re-entered and forfeited the lease for non-payment of rent.

The issues which arose were whether the forfeiture was valid and if so, whether the tenant should have relief from forfeiture.

The tenant contended that the forfeiture was void because the landlord had not previously obtained the leave of the court and such leave was required by section 285 of the 1986 Act. That section provided that no creditor could have any remedy or property of the bankrupt in respect of that debt without the leave of the court but that prohibition should not affect the right of a secured creditor to enforce his security.

Accordingly, the two questions raised were whether forfeiture by re-entry was the enforcement by a secured creditor of his security; and if not whether it constituted a remedy against the property of the tenant.

In many cases since the 1986 Act the landlord's right of re-entry had been accepted to be a security and forfeiture to be an enforcement of that security, but that was clearly incorrect for two reasons.

First, it was held by the Court of Appeal in *Ezekiel v Orlago* [1971] 1 QB 260 that the right of re-entry was not a security and the landlord was not a secured creditor. That decision was not referred to in the cases on the meaning of security in the 1986 Act.

Second, upon a study of the scheme of the 1986 Act as a whole it was clear that the legislature did not treat the right of re-entry as a security. Under the Act a secured creditor could not petition for bankruptcy unless he waived his security; nor could he prove in the liquidation of a company unless he waived or valued his security. A landlord could not sensibly waive

or value his right to re-entry.

The landlord's right to forfeit was not a remedy although often it was colloquially referred to as such. It prevented the recurrence by the tenants of breaches of their covenant and saved a landlord from being saddled with a defaulting tenant.

In those circumstances the forfeiture was valid but since the tenant was void because the landlord had not previously obtained the leave of the court and such leave was required by section 285 of the 1986 Act. That section provided that no creditor could have any remedy or property of the bankrupt in respect of that debt without the leave of the court but that prohibition should not affect the right of a secured creditor to enforce his security.

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Power to strike out before rule bites

Jones v Bayford Mining Co Ltd

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment May 6]

The court could exercise its power to strike out an action for want of prosecution before the time when the action would be struck out under the automatic directions for the time-labelling of proceedings in Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687/L20).

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Roy Stanley Jones, against the decision of Judge Gareth Edwards, QC, at Chester County Court on April 25, 1996 striking out his personal injury action against the defendant, Bayford Mining Co Ltd, for want of prosecution.

Order 17, rule 11 provides: "(9) If no request is made (to fix a hearing date) within 15 months of the day on which pleadings are deemed to be closed (or within 9 months after the expiry of any period fixed by the court for making such a request), the action shall be automatically struck out."

MR GERARD MARTIN for the plaintiff; Mr Christopher Allis for the defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue on the appeal was the interaction between the automatic directions procedure contained in Order 17, rule 11 and the ability of the court to strike out an action for inordinate and inexcusable delay which had caused prejudice to the other party.

In particular, was there any reason why the court's general power to strike out an action for want of prosecution should be excluded by the fact that the case was one to which the automatic directions applied when the application to strike out was made?

In his Lordship's judgment, the fact that the automatic directions applied to an action, and the automatic directions carried their own sanction in Order 17, rule 11(9), did not prevent a court in an appropriate case from striking out an action, albeit that the action would not be struck out under the automatic directions.

Order 17, rule 11(9) was properly regarded as providing an additional sanction which applied specifically in the case of delay as described in that rule. It was contrary to the proper approach to Order 17, rule 11(9) to take it as permitting the parties to regard themselves as complying with the requirements which they were under because the 15-month period referred to in that rule had not expired.

However, the court, in considering how to exercise its discretion where an application was made to strike out the action for delay, would take into account the fact that the code contained in Order 17, rule 11 applied to the action and give what weight was appropriate to the provisions of the rule.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON and LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY agreed.

Solicitors: A. W. Brown & Lloyd, Oswestry; Berryman's Lane Mawer, Liverpool.

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THE GREAT FORD GIVE-AWAY.

EDUCATION

Vocations and doubts

GNVQs are not living up to their hype, says John O'Leary

Finding the alternative to academic qualifications which will command the respect of employers and academics, as well as maintaining the interest of teenagers, has become the Holy Grail of British education.

When the Conservative Government introduced the General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) in 1992, there was genuine hope that the search was over. Sixth-formers and college students flocked to join the programmes in such numbers that it seemed A levels would soon be eclipsed.

Five years later, however, doubts persist about the quality of courses and their direction. A report published today finds that GNVQs have not made the desired inroads into the student market and are losing an unacceptably high proportion of those who do embark on courses. The author blames basic design faults, which leave the programmes falling between academic and vocational stools.

With David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, pledged to raise the status and standard of vocational qualifications, Professor Alison Wolf's four-year study could hardly be more timely. Her team at the London University Institute of Education has been monitoring the GNVQ for four years, and the backing of the Further Education Development Agency ensures that the findings will be taken seriously.

Professor Wolf's verdict on the qualification, which covers the intermediate and advanced awards, is not entirely negative. She acknowledges that the GNVQ has introduced vocational education into a substantial number of schools and become an accepted route into higher education, as well as preparing teenagers for employment in a limited number of fields.

However, the study finds that the courses do not represent the "broad preparation for employment" set out in the original brief, let alone satisfying the requirement for "equal standing" with academic qualifications. Even the take-up rate, which looked so promising at the outset, has proved disappoint-

ing. Professor Wolf says that the GNVQ has done little more than match the numbers taking the range of courses it replaced.

About 20 per cent of 16-year-olds are taking GNVQs, many in combination with A levels, compared with the target of 25 per cent set for 1996. But only about half are completing the qualification, according to today's report.

Early criticism of the low completion rates on GNVQ courses were met with heated denials, as officials insisted that the programmes were designed to be taken at the students' own pace. But Professor Wolf says: "There is a limit to how long you can go on arguing that students are going to finish the course."

The figures are significantly lower than those in an assessment of the courses last month by the Office for Standards in Education, which covered schools alone. Inspectors, who noted a general improvement in the quality of courses, found that 80 per cent were receiving a qualification. The disparity suggests a much higher dropout rate in colleges, but may also reflect the smaller size of Ofsted's sample.

Even the GNVQ's most enthusiastic supporters would hardly have expected the qualification to have achieved "parity of esteem" with A levels at this stage in its development. In fact, the advanced courses are recruiting students with three or four high-grade GCSEs on average, the group immediately below the A-level intake.

The fashionable view of our tendency to cherish the academic above the vocational is a snobbish British eccentricity, in any case, exaggerated. Professor Wolf says: "Every country has its hierarchy of qualifications, with the brightest kids taking the academic route."

Professor Wolf believes that GNVQ's problems stem not from its vocational nature, but from a failed attempt to straddle the divide between academic and job-related education. "We found that employers feel very strongly that they have not had an adequate input and the qualifica-



Only about half of those who embark on GNVQ courses are completing the qualification

tion is not fulfilling its vocational role."

She cites the absence of a requirement for courses to include work experience, although most do so in practice.

Professor Alan Smithers, who heads Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research and who has criticised the quality of vocational programmes, is pinning his hopes on a review of the GNVQ by government advisers to get the format right.

"We do need a practical alternative to A level," he says, "because a lot of people learn

better when they can apply their knowledge, but GNVQ started in the wrong place."

Like Professor Wolf, Professor Smithers believes the new Government must distinguish between the original National Vocational Qualifications, which were designed to be taken mainly in the workplace, and the school and college-based GNVQ. "It is really applied, rather than vocational education, and to be successful it must have clear goals and take people to particular destinations."

At present, two thirds of advanced GNVQ students are

aiming for higher education. Although three quarters of those who stay the course apply to universities or higher education colleges, the high dropout rate means that only about a fifth of the original intake win places on degree or diploma courses.

Mr Blunkett knows that a successful alternative to A level is essential if Britain's ambitious qualifications targets are to be met. Today's report suggests that, despite all the attention given to reforming the qualification's assessment regime, the GNVQ is far from the finished article.

The importance of being learned

At 73, Ida Staples is a University Challenge star on a mission, reports Jennai Cox

SHE KNOWS which family of 16th and 17th-century Dutch artists included Pieter the Elder, has visited countries most can hardly place on a map and is working her way through a second university degree. But Ida Staples, the 73-year-old star of *University Challenge*, says even she does not dare attempt *The Times* cryptic crossword.

The Open University team Mrs Staples helped to two record-breaking scores were finally beaten 250-195 in the final by Magdalen College, Oxford, on Wednesday night. "We just couldn't get to the buzzer fast enough," she says.

Mrs Staples, who lives in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, is believed to be

sometimes think, "What on earth are you doing all this for?" But then I say, "What would you be doing if you were not?"

"When you are widowed, people will tell you what you should do but will do nothing to actually help you. They have no idea what it is really like." One asked if she was doing an arts degree so she could teach. "That was when I was 67," she says. "Daft."

Mrs Staples says she wanted to prove "all the young people who think women know nothing" were wrong. "It makes me very angry." She also detests the word pensioner. "It carries connotations of shopping baskets and woolly

hats and of being slightly gaga," she says. "It is very demeaning."

Mrs Staples says that as she has no family, education fills the long weekends and is personally satisfying, while her travels have opened her eyes to the world even more. She recalls learning about the inventor of perspective on a visit to Florence during her arts course and wading through a lake during a Russian river trip for the earth sciences degree last year. "I was picking up stones and saying 'This is granite'. The world becomes more alive. It is as though I only half lived before and have taken everything for granted."

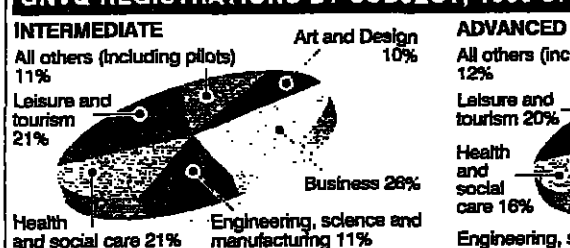
STUDYING has also triggered other interests. The course on Man's Religious Quest as part of her arts degree started a fascination for temples, which Mrs Staples now visits when she is in the Far East. "And I don't just admire them. I understand something about them and the culture of the people," she says. She was in India last January and plans a trip to the Baltic states next month, "before it is infested with tourists. I want to go on broadening my outlook."

Dedicating at least two hours a day to studying, Mrs Staples should get her BSc by the time she is 79. Then she intends finally to start on the languages.

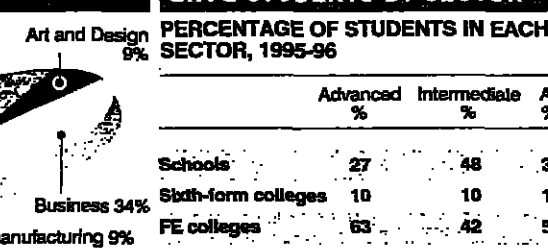


Ida Staples: more to do

GNVQ REGISTRATIONS BY SUBJECT, 1996-97



GNVQ STUDENTS BY SECTOR, 1995-96



Duncan Baxter on the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme

Yesterday's vote in the House of Commons confirming the Government's intention to run down the Assisted Places Scheme, will turn the clock back by more than 70 years. The history of my school illustrates this very well.

The school has its origins in a Chantry Chapel built in the 14th century where teaching and learning had reached such a level that when Henry VIII dissolved the chapel there was an outcry from local people. Elizabeth I granted the school a formal charter in 1561. Thus Kingston Grammar School looks back to the Middle Ages. But in 1926 it accepted direct grant status as a means of maintaining a first-class education for boys, whatever their backgrounds.

After the abolition of the direct grant system, the assisted places were embraced with enthusiasm as a way of maintaining the traditional grammar school feel while being both independent and educational. Kingston Grammar has not been an "exclusive" school, therefore, since before the 1920s.

Four out of ten assisted place holders nationally come from what can be described as manual working-class families and two thirds of such pupils are from families earning less than the average wage. With 25 per cent of the pupils in the school in receipt of assisted places, we can genuinely claim to be a microcosm of the world of south London from which our pupils come.

What will I say in seven years' time when only children whose parents can afford the fees will be attending my school?

It must surely be now understood that the majority of parents who send their children to independent schools do not wish their children to be cut off from the children in the real world. At Kingston Grammar it is the very variety of children's backgrounds

Are we doing away with real choice?



which makes it attractive to prospective parents. These parents choose an independent education for many different reasons.

By maintaining a steady course, independent schools have avoided the stormy passage caused by the winds of an ever-changing national curriculum. Some parents will choose independent schools because of their religious foundation; because their children require or prefer to be boarders; because they wish their children to go to a single sex school; because they like the size of the school, its location, its tradition or its atmosphere.

Whatever the reason, parents and children have a genuine choice when there is a system in place such as the Assisted Places Scheme. The

entire cost of the scheme will make the difference of half a child per primary class. A phased withdrawal of the scheme will release only one seventh or one eighth of that amount annually and therefore will reduce a class by one sixteenth of a child. This is hardly a major contribution to the education system, and does not even take account of the fact that the 37,000 children currently on the scheme will have to be educated by the State in the future, thus adding again to the cost

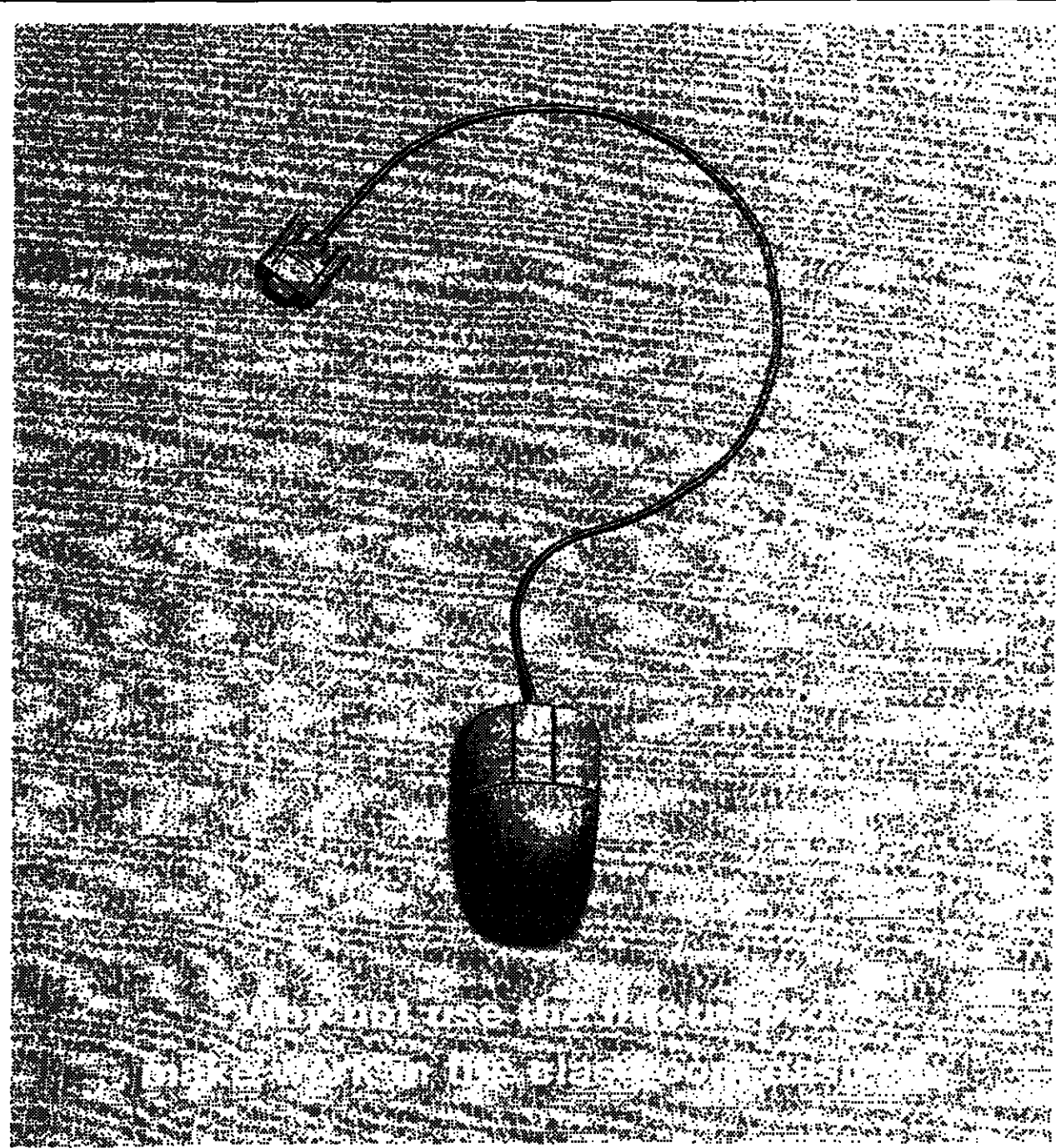
of the maintained system. In 1996 a MORI poll indicated that 55 per cent of people intending to vote Labour said they supported the scheme and nearly two thirds of those questioned believed there would still be a role for independent schools even if state schools achieved the same standards. In other words, what the new initiative ignores is the fact that people still favour choice for all when it comes to education.

Independent schools in the United Kingdom have supported the scheme even when the fees paid by the Government on behalf of the assisted place holders have not been increased in line with the full fees. It is not unusual for a school to be subsidising places to the tune of a six-figure sum so that the school remains open to all who would benefit.

I am sure that independent schools will refuse to be cut off from our modern, diverse pluralistic society. Independent schools which have pioneered community service will work even harder in these areas to ensure that pupils are aware of the needs and circumstances of those less fortunate than themselves. Links with primary schools, sometimes involving Saturday schools for pupils from the maintained sector, will continue to play an important part in the battery of links which exist between independent and state schools.

Schools will continue to offer bursaries and scholarships to enable children to experience what an independent school has to offer; they already pay out more in scholarships and bursaries than they receive from the financial benefits of charitable status. Just because we are independent does not mean we have to be exclusive and our doors will remain firmly open despite the pressure to slam them in our faces.

• The author is Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School.



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TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

■ VISUAL ART

The architect Sandy Wilson displays his superb drawing collection in Chichester

figures

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INTERVIEW

THE JAYHAWKS

SPECIAL GUEST

MONTROSE AVENUE

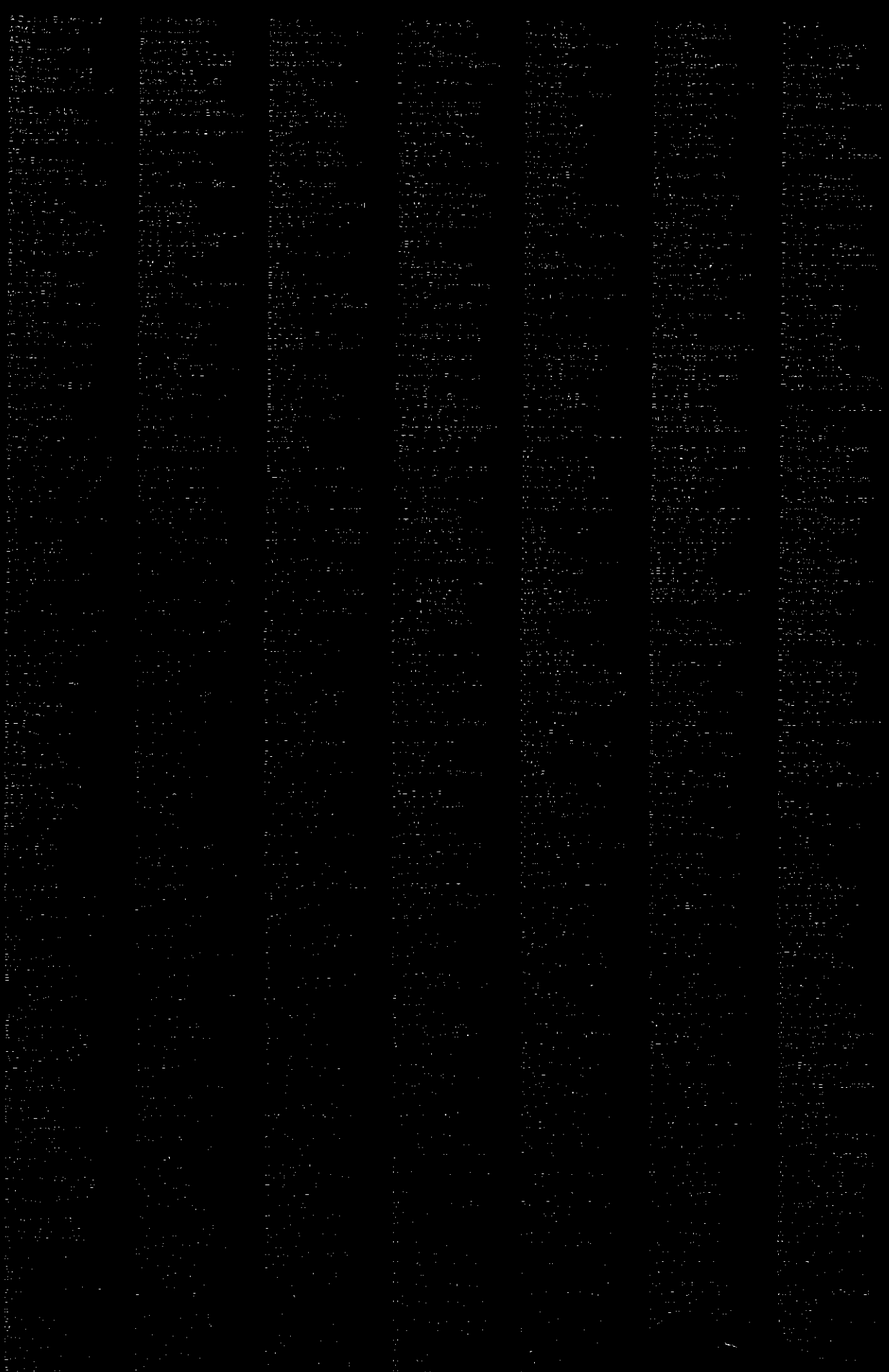
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TENNIS: BATTLING SELES UNABLE TO HALT GRACEFUL TEENAGER'S PROGRESS TO FRENCH FINAL

Hingis completes rout of old guard

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

MARTINA HINGIS, the Swiss miss who is now unbeaten on any surface anywhere in the world for 40 matches, yesterday outlasted Monica Seles in the semi-final of the French Open at Roland Garros, and in doing so completed the break-up of an exclusive club.

Since 1987, only Seles, Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario had taken the honours on the red clay of Paris. Hingis has helped shatter that triumvirate, first by ousting Sánchez Vicario and now by beating Seles, winning their duel by 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 in two hours and 18 minutes. Graf, of course, had fallen to Arantxa Coetzee on Wednesday.

"I'm more happy than I can really show anyone," Hingis said, doing a pretty effective job of flashing her Hollywood smile. "Physically, I don't think I'm 100 per cent after that. I feel I'm getting cramp every minute, because if you run on the court for two hours with Monica, that's the way you're going to end up feeling."

"But I'm happiest because I didn't know what I could expect from myself, coming back from surgery. Some of the other girls had told me they could not make it to the top again. I'm very happy I made it... and I really respect Monica because she was my idol when I was little."

So very old, now, Hingis at 16 years and eight months. She is on the brink of her second grand slam of the year, having won the Australian Open in January. Unless there is reaction from the knees that she injured in March after falling from a horse, then it is doubtful if Iva Majoli, the 19-year-old Croatian who faces her in the final, will be able to withstand the power, the consistency and the all-round ability Hingis has shown us this year.

Majoli beat Coetzee, the blonde South African baseline, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in two hours and 22 minutes. Their match

was the longer, but only because of the players' obduracy. The quality was not comparable.

Whatever tomorrow brings, it surely cannot supersede yesterday's spectacle on the centre court. Beneath a patchwork sky and in an oppressive atmosphere — the temperature was 25C at the start and rose steadily — the 16,000 spectators were bound to the contest by its competitiveness and intensity as Seles sought to reimpose herself at the highest level and Hingis initially resisted and eventually overcame her.

The skill of Hingis has not been in doubt since she won as a junior here at the age of 12. Yesterday, with Seles examining her willpower, stamina and courage to the very limits,

Paris results 46

it was obvious that the child has graduated to a teenager who is ready to dominate the women's game.

The opening set was compelling in its combativeness. Of the first five service games, only one was held, by Hingis, who has greater racket control. Seles breathed defiance, though, and was the more intent on going for outright winners, even from behind the baseline.

She was to commit an alleged 71 unforced errors over the length of the contest, Hingis 50. But what is "unforced"? In such a tennis match? It is because they hit so powerfully, so close to the margins, that they err.

Seles admitted afterwards: "I don't have the strength and intensity that I used to have, I don't have the consistency." She means before she was stabbed in the back by a spectator at the Hamburg tournament in April 1993. But she was playing here for more than personal glory, attempting to lift the spirits of her

father Karolj, who has stomach cancer.

So, for many reasons, this encounter was as taut as a racket strings. Seles, by stepping inside the baseline to take the Hingis serve early, played the role of enforcer, although she was taken to a first-set tie-break, which she won 7-2.

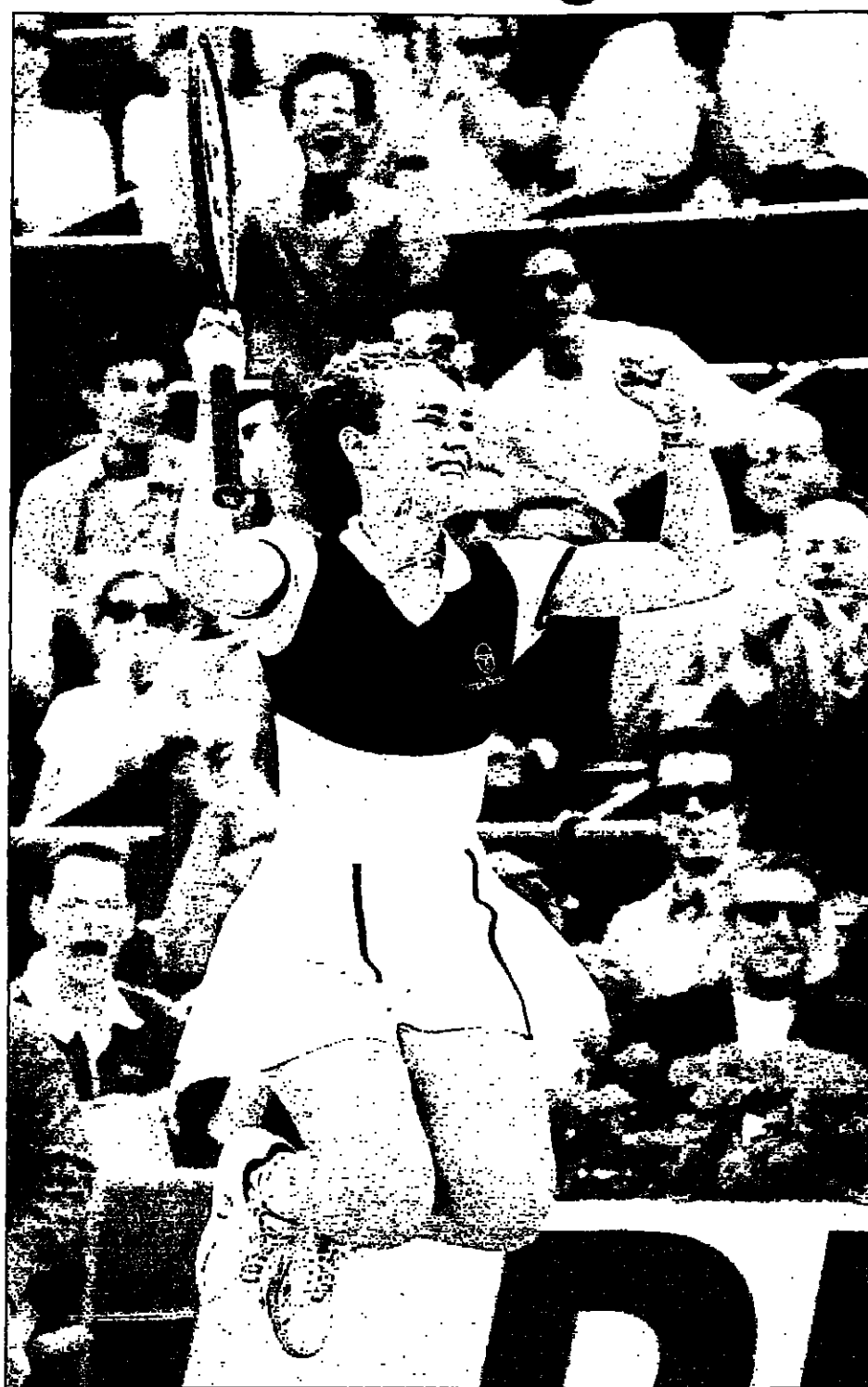
With the breeze rugging at the players' skirts like a persistent beggar, with the unforgiving ferocity of Seles countered by Hingis's control and imagination, the tide began to turn in the second set.

It did so decisively once Hingis broke through to lead 4-2, doing so with a most audacious, feathered drop-shot played from behind the baseline. A genuine, girlish smile greeted that one, and when a baby's cry could be heard among the silent, enrapt crowd, Hingis responded naturally again. It is this ability to perform with grace in the heat of battle that makes her so endearing.

Ninety minutes had elapsed before, after out-rallying Seles, Hingis became her equal at one set all. In the final set, Hingis was always ahead and although Seles's will was unbroken it was unclear whether, physically, she could stand the pace.

Pierce was her resistance, but although even the very last game, with Hingis serving at 5-4, went uncertainly from point to point, the irresistible newcomer justifiably outmanoeuvred and outlasted the former champion.

Of course, someone had to ask Seles if the Martina Hingis era had started. "Only time will tell, but all expectations are wonderful," she said. "The way she plays she doesn't have a weakness, she's tough mentally, very quick, and consistent." And Seles? "What's past is past. I have to look for a future, starting with Wimbledon." But it looks as if the real future has already started — and it belongs to Hingis.



Hingis jumps for joy after her epic semi-final win over Seles yesterday

SAILING

Britons pay for switch inshore

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION to stay inshore by as much as 30 yards more than the chasing boats may have cost John Merricks and the British Admiral's Cup team Mumm 30 crew a top-three finish in the Corbi Mumm 30 world championships at Punta Ala, Italy.

The 95-mile offshore race that punctuates the windward/leeward that open and close the championship, turned into a difficult light-air exercise in which the three leading boats early on, including Merricks's *Bradmanite*, ended up at the back of the fleet.

Merricks had a great start on the 35-mile beat from Punta Ala to Isola Montecristo, which he reached in third place behind Renato Mazzeschi's Italian boat, *Zencero*, which had a good lead, and the German boat *Just for Garanti*, with Russell Counts on board. At this point Merricks had another German boat, *Thomas I-Punk*, the championship leader, on his tail.

However, after crossing ahead of the chasing Germans as they bore off around the island, Merricks went inshore and got stuck in a flat calm

while the Germans were able to sweep past. By the time Merricks started moving again, the Germans, who went on to finish second and thus increase their hold on the championship, were two miles ahead, while the Britons were back in thirteenth.

In the end, despite climbing to eighth at one point on the last beat, in the early hours of the morning, before being denied by an unfavourable shift, Merricks had to settle for fifteenth, with Counts fourteenth and the Italians, on *Zencero*, last in seventeenth.

Ian Walker summed up a frustrating night's work that dropped *Bradmanite* from second to fifth overall: "The final damage toll was pretty high considering how we were first beat had gone for us. But valuable lessons were learnt for the Admiral's Cup."

With three more inshore races to come today and one tomorrow, Thomas Friese's *Thomas I-Punk* leads on 24 points from the American Admiral's Cup boat, *Jameson*, on 44.5, with Torben Graef, on *Bravo*, third on 44.5 points, and the Italian boat, *Osama*, fourth with 50. *Bradmanite* is next with 53.5.

GOLF

Davies back in swing

LAURA DAVIES makes her first appearance of the year on the American Express Women's Tour when the £90,000 Ford-Simcor Danish Open begins at Vejle today.

Her arrival will give a welcome lift to the tour following the acrimonious annual meeting last month when Terry Coates, the executive director, came close to resigning.

"There is always concern

when we lose tournaments that have been announced," Davies said, referring to the Polish Open, which was cancelled through lack of sponsorship. "I had had policy to include them before all the details are finalised."

"I plan to play in seven European tournaments and it would be good if some of our other players in America came back. The tour is worth fighting for."



First service: Tim Heaman, Britain's No 1 tennis player, was at Islington Green secondary school in north London yesterday to launch a new coaching programme within Britain's schools (Julian Muscat writes). The Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) three-year scheme, assisted by a £400,000 sponsorship from Midland Bank, will provide equipment and access to professional coaches for

thousands of children. It also aims to forge links with more than 250 clubs, offering children a supervised opportunity to play outside the school curriculum.

"This is an area in which we have struggled so much," Heaman said. "It is hard to produce top players when we have so few children playing at the grass roots. In the past it has been a problem for schools to have

rackets and balls, never mind courts. Now they will have the coaching as well, which is very important."

LTA officials also emphasised the recreational aspect of the scheme. "We need a meaningful structure, with continuity, for children to follow," Chris Clark, the body's development director, said. "If another Heaman comes out of this, it will be a bonus."

SPORTS LETTERS

Affront to international rugby

From Mr D. A. G. Simpson
Sir, The news (June 5) that a member of the Lions rugby squad has been taken out of action by foul play was no surprise. Since the South Africans returned to the international scene there has been a succession of such occurrences.

Before more Lions players are removed in similar fashion cannot the responsible authorities in the other coun-

tries involved make it clear that tolerance of this behaviour will result in South Africa's return to the isolation of earlier years? The present situation is an affront to the countries which welcomed the Springboks back to international rugby and, especially, to President Mandela who has given them such support.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON,
7 Wingfield Street, SE15.

Common sense should prevail

From Mr M. Diddams
Sir, What a ludicrous farce was played out on Monday at Valentine's Park, Ilford. When the Essex and Yorkshire cricket teams reassembled there, with all the attendant costs, so that Yorkshire could score the six runs they required for victory, this took eight balls to achieve.

Common sense should have prevailed and the match been played to a finish on Saturday evening.

Being of a cynical nature I

am of the opinion that this match was deliberately carried over so that the record books show the game lasted four days, as we have been told by cricket's great and good that three-day games cannot produce players of Test ability. Those eight balls on the fourth day made all the difference in this respect.

Yours faithfully,
M. DIDDAMS,
21 Vincent Road,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.

Question of taste

From Mr John Elliott
Sir, After the third day's play, in the match between Hampshire and Warwickshire, Alan Lee wrote (June 2): "... it is

vision I saw no evidence of this. The crowd started a Mexican wave which understandably reduced Pierce to laughter: the behaviour of both players was impeccable. This seems to be another example of bias against Pierce and idolisation of Seles. Crowds support players; not the reverse.

Yours truly,
H. RICHARDS,
306 Grand Parade,
Green Lanes, N4.

hard to imagine that anyone has greatly enjoyed either playing in it or watching it." Hampshire amassed 549 for six, Matthew Hayden broke the 96-year-old Hampshire record for a maiden century and then reached a personal best of 235 not out. At the other end Shaun Udal scored a maiden century.

I hope we do not have too many more dull days like this. Yours sincerely,
JOHN ELLIOTT,
Orcheston House,
Broomrigg Road,
Fleet, Hampshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that on 25th May 1997 a Petition was presented to the Court of Session in Scotland by Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society incorporated under the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1976 and having its principal office at Craigforth, Stirling FK9 4UE ("the Society") applying for, *inter alia*, an Order of the Court under Section 49 of, and Part I of Schedule 2C to, the Insurance Companies Act 1982 ("the Act"), sanctioning a scheme ("the Scheme") under which the long term business (as defined in the Act) carried on by the Society is to be transferred to The Prudential Assurance Company Limited, a company incorporated in England and having its registered office at 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Copies of the Petition, the Report of the Independent Actuary on the Scheme and the Circular to members and policyholders of the Society dated 28th May 1997 ("the Circular") are open for inspection at the addresses and times set out in the Schedule to this notice until the date on which the Court sanctions the Scheme. Copies of the Circular may be obtained by calling the Scottish Amicable Information Helpline on 0345 888 555 (or +44 990 886 560 if calling from outside the UK) on any weekday (Monday to Friday) between the hours of 9.00 am and 6.00 pm.

SCHEDULE

- At the following offices of the Society between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any weekday (Monday to Friday) public holidays excepted:
Craigforth, Stirling FK9 4UE
Westminster House, 11 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3HG
Kestrel House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester Road, Chelmsford CM2 5PF
- At the following offices of The Prudential Assurance Company Limited between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any weekday (Monday to Friday) public holidays excepted:
142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH
250 Euston Road, London NW1 2PQ
121 Kings Road, Reading RG1 3ES
- At the following further addresses during usual business hours on any weekday (Monday to Friday) public holidays excepted:
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Ernst & Young, Torre Picasso, Plaza Pablo Ruiz Picasso, 28020 Madrid, Spain
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Scottish Amicable

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 25th May 1997 at 10.00 am at the offices of Leonard Currie & Co., 25th May 1997, at 10.00 am, to consider the proposed Scheme of Arrangements for the transfer of the business of the Company to the Prudential Assurance Company Limited, a company incorporated in England and having its registered office at 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

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CRICKET

Master and pupil relish timely reversal of roles

BY SIMON WILDE

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with six first-innings in hand, are 18 runs ahead of Leicestershire

MIKE GATTING'S smartest move of the season may prove to be resigning the Middlesex captaincy last week. It was not a decision that was eagerly awaited, but it appears to have revitalised a dressing-room that has always done best when ideas flow freely among the senior professionals. This shake-up has surely ensured that, whatever the reason, Middlesex once again look like a side that is going places.

They had about as good a day as they could have wished for yesterday and it was the old heads, Gattling, Mark Ramprakash, his successor, and Angus Fraser, the leading bowler, who had most to do with it. Fraser completed figures of six for 77, his best for three years, and Gattling and Ramprakash both scored nineties, sharing a partnership of 178 in 49 overs that may go a long way towards deciding this match.

When bad light brought an early close, Middlesex were

298 for four, a lead of 18, and in the driving seat, though they still have a fair bit to do yet before victory is secured.

Nevertheless, the signs are encouraging. Pooley played brightly for his 28 in the last hour's Stygian gloom and Pierson and Brimston, the Leicestershire spinners, are finding enough purchase in the pitch to have Tufnell licking his fingers at the prospect of the work to come.

Middlesex set the tone for the day by mopping up the last three Leicestershire wickets



Gattling: delighted

for 13 runs with the second new ball, the champions being all out 40 minutes into the morning. Fraser removed Whitaker for the addition of two to his overnight 108. Hewitt had Brimston leg-before and so anxious were Leicestershire to gain another batting point that Smith was then sent out again, despite his broken finger.

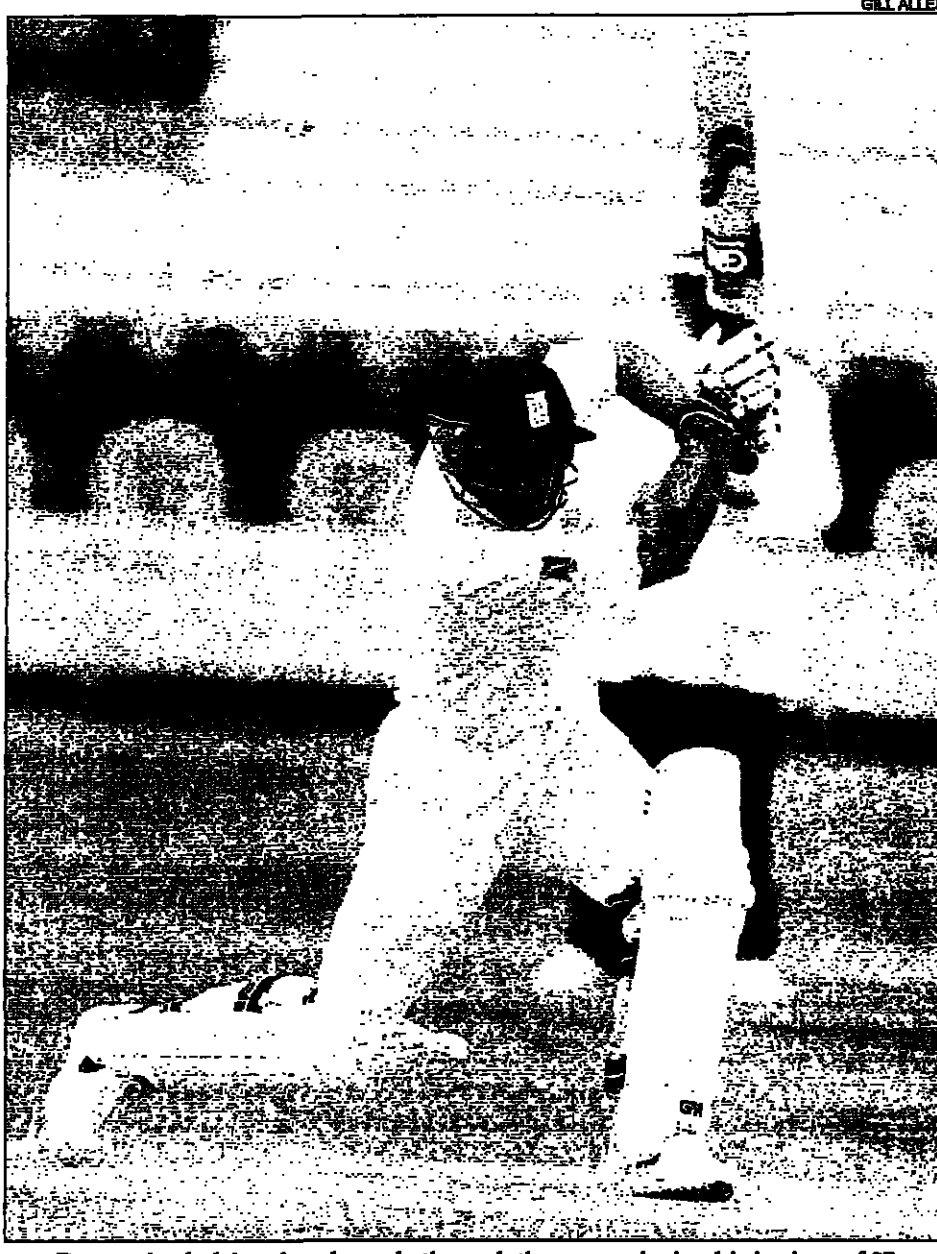
The task of scoring another 26 runs was well beyond Mullally, who was soon the fifth man to have his stumps rattled by Fraser, who last took six wickets or more in an innings in the Bridgetown Test of April 1994. He last took six in a championship innings against these same opponents in August 1993, a performance that sealed his return to the England side.

Middlesex, in turn, struggled before lunch. They lost their openers, Kallis and Weekes, who was bowled by the last ball of the session attempting to punish a full toss from Pierson. Mullally and Parsons had maintained a firm stranglehold, at one time delivering six successive maidens.

But after lunch, out strode Gattling to accompany Ramprakash, his protégé of so many years, and they were quickly going about their business with the old panache. No sooner did Ramprakash later cut Mullally than the idea occurred to Gattling: no sooner did Gattling punch the ball through the covers, than Ramprakash followed suit. Leicestershire sorely missed the bustling presence of Mills, particularly Mullally.

The Middlesex captain's past and present clearly relish their reversal of roles. Gattling describes the absence of responsibility as "lovely" and in Ramprakash's first championship match in charge, against Northamptonshire, they shared a stand of 187 and each scored hundreds.

A repeat performance looked inevitable after they put on 145 between lunch and tea. But Ramprakash, looking for the boundary that would have given him a fourth hundred of the season, carelessly drove into the hands of cover; Gattling chopped the ball into stumps attempting to cut Pierson, seven short of his 93rd hundred. He was furious — and it was generous of the Leicestershire players to applaud him all the way back to the pavilion.



Ramprakash drives handsomely through the covers during his innings of 97

Speight displaying signs of mastering new challenge

BY DEREK HODGSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 64 runs behind Sussex

MARTIN SPEIGHT is remembered for a glorious half-century for Sussex against Warwickshire in the 1993 NatWest Trophy final. It was considered, that day, that a new star had risen in the southern sky. For three years, living up to that performance proved difficult; loss of form, illness and finally a break with Sussex taking him to Riverside.

As Durham's new wicket-keeper-batsman, he has not been an overnight success, but, by dint of hard graft and the addition of a little northern grit, he is beginning to prosper in his new surroundings. He has started by putting one over on Sussex.

At 107 for four, with Durham still 266 behind, Speight joined a tenacious Jonathan

Lewis to put on 77 in 20 overs that effectively laid the spectre of a follow-on. He then spent another 20 overs, after Lewis's 141-ball innings had been ended by a catch behind, acting as a role model for Mike Foster, who is definitely more of a hitter than a blocker. They added 60 for the sixth wicket and the Speight story was developing nicely when Mark Robinson found some extra bounce and he was out, caught at first slip, for 49.

Time was as important as the runs. He had batted for 2½ hours, faced 137 balls, shored up the resistance and demonstrated that Durham are not obliged to collapse. Foster carried on the resistance and the match is not far off balance, Robinson again finding the spot at the Lumley end.

Paul Jarvis put paid to Durham's hopes of a quick end to the overnight Sussex innings. He took 11 off Simon Brown's first over, but it was

Brown who eventually cleaned up, having Jarvis well caught at slip, Amer Khan caught behind and, finally, Moores caught at first slip. The Moores-Jarvis partnership was worth 63 in 18 overs. Vasebert Drakes drove Mike Roseberry back on to his stumps and John Morris then played an innings either side of lunch that lifted this match above the mundane. Jarvis was plundered for 31 in three overs; Morris cracked seven fours and had taken 48 off 55 balls when he went to drive Drakes and played on. "Lovely shots," a Durham man murmured, but what was needed was a very dull 150.

Drakes, by then, had hit the length. Nick Speak was tormented by a ball that might have burrowed underground and David Boon, who was starting to show a liking for Amer Khan's leg spin, was caught in front by another languidly-delivered grenade from Drakes.

Battling batting gives Kent narrow advantage

BY IVO TENNANT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (second day of four): Kent, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are five runs ahead of Warwickshire

EVEN on the most correctly prepared of pitches, when the attack is short of its overseas fast bowler and its leading spinner, batting can be a troublesome art. Kent had quite a struggle yesterday to reach Warwickshire's total of 314. The most notable innings came from David Fulton, who made 73, and Alan Wells, who eked out 70.

Fulton has made centuries against both the ancient universities, but has yet to take one off county opposition. Given that he is in the sixth season since his debut, this will be concerning him as much as his club. He looked the part until he edged one that Brown swung away, the movement accentuated by the mugginess of the air.

This was the most authoritative innings yesterday. Wells, by contrast, collected his runs more carefully until he lifted Smith for two sixes. He, too, was on his way to a century, having made his runs off 138 balls, when he was yorked by Edmond. Kent have seen him at his best only once this season, when he took on Waqar Younis, but consistent contributions will surely come.

The ball swung a little, as on the first day, and Kent like Warwickshire did not cope with it as best they might. Walker went in the first over of the day, to a good, low catch by Frost. Ward struck six fours in his customary dominant way before he was leg-before to Brown, on the front foot.

There were further misjudgments. Marsh shuffled across his stumps and was leg-before to Brown; Strang swept at Smith and was bowled off his front pad. Such was the bowler's delight at taking his first wicket of the season in first-class cricket that, in a pious manner, he bent down and kissed the turf.

The wickets that Small and Edmond took were also their first of the season in the championship. It is a wonder that Warwickshire are in the upper reaches of the table.

Without Donald and Giles, they had much difficulty in breaking the ninth-wicket pairing of Thompson and Phillips, who are too correct to bat in the tradition of Kent fast bowlers. They put on an unbroken 76 with greater ease than the specialist batsmen.

Hayden at the head of recovery mission for Hampshire

BY RICHARD HOBSON

CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 357 runs behind Derbyshire

HAMPSHIRE are acquiring the habit of chasing exorbitant first-innings totals simply to stay in the game. Last week, at Southampton, Warwickshire amassed 631 against them and, while Derbyshire were unable to quite match that yesterday, they managed to reach a position from which defeat is hard to contemplate in any circumstances other than a contrived finish tomorrow.

The visitors to Queen's Park, chasing 524, still require 208 runs to avoid the follow-on today. There is the odd sign of variable bounce but little pace in the pitch and, with the correct approach, survival is within their compass.

Having laboured in the field for close to ten hours, the sun at least fanned by strong winds yesterday, Matthew Hayden and Jason Loney revealed considerable resolution to take the score to 110 before the opening stand was broken. For their part, Derbyshire, without Malcolm and Cork, did not use the new ball as well as they might.

Hayden, in particular, batted with an ease that appears to have been lacking among his Australian colleagues at Edgbaston. A fourth century in seven days was there to be taken until he followed a ball from Harris that was slanted across him and turned to see Adams snaffle a difficult catch at second slip.

Two balls later, Loney shuffled across to Harris and was adjudged leg-before to leave Hampshire in need of consolidation. Jones, the Derbyshire captain, called predictably for the leg spin of Clarke as Robin Smith emerged from the pavilion. Clarke, though, lacked control and offered far too much scope for attacking strokes.

It was curious on a day of just five wickets that batsmen should fall in clusters. Earlier, Hampshire claimed the three they needed in four overs but not, unfortunately for them, before Adrian Rollins and Paul Aldred had extended their eighth-wicket stand to 149. Rollins showed great composure in progressing from 151 to 210 before Renshaw produced a perfect yorker to prise him away. Rollins batted for 568 minutes in all, hit 29 fours and did not offer a chance. Aldred, too, secured a career-best 83.

Glamorgan pair feast on wayward bowling

BY BARNEY SPENDER

THE PARKS (first day of three): Glamorgan won toss; Oxford University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 348 runs behind Glamorgan

OXFORD University's bowling suffered severely at the hands of two young Glamorgan batsmen yesterday, Mike Powell and Gary Butcher, who were in their quest by an unhealthy proportion of wayward deliveries and some sloppy ground fielding, but that should not detract too much from two highly-accomplished innings.

Powell, a tall right-hander from Aberystwyth with a penchant for driving through the off side, has hit four centuries in five games for the second team this season and immediately looked at home. He raced to his fifty from just 58 balls and, by the time Glamorgan declared, he was 200 not out, only the third "Englishman" to make a double century on his debut this

century, after Hubert Doggart in 1948 and David Sales last year. He struck 31 fours and a six from 213 balls. Butcher was equally savage. His first 45, which came before tea, took 41 balls while the next 55, after the interval, arrived from a further 23. The declaration came half an hour after tea when both men reached their respective landmarks in the same over.

The way Oxford came out to bat, however, suggests a team with some character. Thomas removed Hudson in the first over when Mark Wagh, their captain, played a delightful and forceful innings of 56 not out. He posted 48 of his first 50 run in boundaries and also removed Law from the action when a fierce blow struck him on the elbow.

Law was the third injury of the day, the others being Adrian Dale, who kicked his back before play began and the umpire, Mervyn Kitchen, who hobbled off at teatime with a bad ankle.

BOXING

Last chance for Graham to impress

HEROL GRAHAM is to get another chance to convince the doubters that he is capable of carrying on boxing (Srikumar Sen writes). The former British, European and Commonwealth middleweight champion, 37, has had two contests since his comeback seven months ago but has not looked good enough to compete at world level.

Frank Maloney, his promoter, has matched him with Chris Johnson, of Canada, the No 8 super-middleweight in the world. If Graham wins, he can reasonably expect to get a world title bout. If he loses he will almost certainly have to look for other employment.

Maloney said yesterday: "If he wins he'll get a world title fight and he'll deserve it." Graham will be appearing on a card at Olympia on July 12 that will be headed by Spencer Oliver's defence of the European super-bantamweight title he won three weeks ago at Picketts Lock, Edmonton.

Oliver, of Finchley, meets Serge Follblanc, of France, who is thought to be better than Martin Krastev, of Bulgaria, the champion, whom Oliver stopped in two rounds to win the title.

GOLF: BARMAN SAVOURS TASTE OF MORNING GLORY WITH AMATEURS WHILE PROFESSIONAL MAKES FINE RETURN TO TOUR

Price brought down to earth by decisive birdie barrage

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THEY do not come much more amateur than Rhodri Price, 23, who works as a barman in the Swan Hotel in Aberystwyth one night a week to earn money towards the cost of playing amateur golf full-time. "I am living off my parents," Price admitted after reaching the last 16 of the Amateur Championship at Royal St George's.

"My father takes me everywhere. I am aware of him when he watches me play. It would be hard not to. He is always falling into bunkers, that sort of thing."

Having beaten Matt Carver, the Walker Cup squad member, Price was as high as the larks that hovered over many of the holes at Sandwich yesterday morning. "What fun amateur golf is," Price said. "I am not sure I am going to turn professional. It is so competitive. What a wonderful course this is. It's a thinking man's

course. I must be a thinking man."

By the afternoon he was a tired and disappointed man, unsure whether he should journey to north Wales to compete in a leading event there. He had been comfortably beaten by James Clive, a Scot. It was all square at the turn but then Price missed the green on the short 11th and three-putted and Clive birdied the 12th, 13th and 14th. Clive is a long hitter and playing well and this is a difficult combination to face on a course over which a rising wind, first from the north-east and later the south-east, was blowing.

Barclay Howard, Britain's best amateur, dismissed Wales's only other competitor when he beat David Park just by being steadier. Howard, 44, had had a fright in the morning, being taken to the 19th by Jacques Thalmay, of France, but he always had the

measure of Park, the winner of the Brabazon Trophy. This is now Howard's best performance in an Amateur, having twice been beaten in the last 16.

In fact, Scots nearly took all four places in the top half of the draw. No sooner had Craig Watson, of East Renfrewshire, beaten Graham Fox, of West Kilbride than Michael Brooks, the son of Andrew, the professional at Sandwich, got back from two down to all square on the 18th.

St George's members certainly support their friends. Brooks's caddy was Simon Ellis, a member and star performer in this year's President's Putter, and several dozen members were there to give Brooks a boost.

Brooks had not chipped particularly well against Colin Edwards, who has won 52 caps for England. There was a moderate one from the back of the 9th, another on the 11th. Still, he sank a 25ft putt to level the match on the 17th only to chip poorly on the last. So Edwards, 33, will play Howard this morning.

It was Price who explained how matchplay should be played. "When he makes a mistake, he is supposed to lose the hole. That's the idea isn't it?" Price said. That certainly applied to Justin Rose, the gifted young Englishman as he crushed José María Lara, of Spain. Rose did not put a foot wrong and was four under par for the 13 holes played.

But after lunch, it was a different matter. Sam Little, 21, who had been three under par for 15 holes in the morning, continued in a similar vein to beat Ruse, 16, and reach the last eight.

A CAR door, an injured left thumb and a minor surgical procedure involving an item of office equipment were the unlikely ingredients of a yarn that was related yesterday by the young Midlander who took the lead in the first round of the Compaq European Grand Prix. Those of a delicate disposition should stop reading now and skip a few paragraphs before rejoining the rest of this piece.

The narrator of the tale was Steve Webster, who shot a 66 at Sleafly Hall in Northumberland to lead Padraig Harrington and Fredrik Andersson by a shot and a multinational group of four, which comprised an Englishman, a Swede, a Spaniard and an Italian, by two. Colin Montgomerie had a 69 to be three behind.

Webster's story started the day after he missed the cut in the Tournament Players' Championship of Europe in Germany last Friday and returned home to England. He was leaning nonchalantly against the roof of his car with his left hand when he slammed the door with his right.

Sadly, he forgot to get his left thumb out of the way. Result: a squashed digit, a

short but vivid stream of foul oaths and a good deal of agony.

Webster did not hit a ball for four days, and was close to pulling out of the tournament, but decided to make a visit to his GP before doing so. The good doctor made an immediate diagnosis and outlined the treatment he proposed. It is here that the episode turns seriously grisly.

The treatment sounded like something close to mediaeval

Scores 46

torture, involving as it did a paperclip that was held over a flame then plunged into the offending nail by the doctor to relieve the pressure of the blood behind the nail. Webster said he had felt a little faint after the procedure and had had to lie down for a while, which is hardly surprising. Just writing about it induces an attack of the vapours.

The upshot of it all was that Webster, 22, his head now having stopped spinning, came to Sleafly Hall. They breed them tough in Nuneston, and Webster proved it by producing one of the better rounds of his short career.

BY MEL WEBB

Webster responds to doctor's orders and leads the field

HOCKEY

Britain again goalless in fourth defeat

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the Great Britain coach, must be wondering where her team's first goal will come from after the 3-0 defeat by Germany in the Champions Trophy in Berlin yesterday.

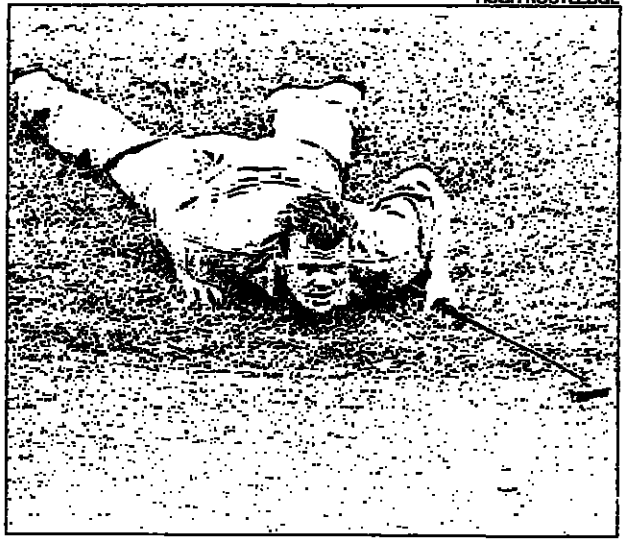
The British team have failed to score in four games here. Poor basic skills, sloppy passing and a complete lack of clinical finishing have all contributed to their four successive defeats, and Souyave will be left with no option but to drop some of the England team, who are representing Britain in Berlin, before the World Cup qualifier in Harare in August.

Errors by Karen Brown, one of Souyave's most experienced defenders, led to two of the German goals. After intercepting Brown's weak clearance, Natascha Keller gave Germany a 24th minute lead. Britain had chances to level the scores but Jane StsSmith and Tina Cullen were off-target, and Jane Smith's penalty corner effort flew harmlessly wide.

The hosts went 2-0 ahead through Katrin Kauschke in the 52nd minute after Britain's defence was caught napping at a free hit.

Seven minutes later, Brown was again at fault as Heike Batzsch scored from close range to complete the scoring.

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Price gets down to the task of lining up his putt

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Brown assumes lead role in repeat performance



Brown: new maturity

THE OVAL (second day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 107 runs ahead of Surrey

DIFFERENT actors in different roles and slight variations in the plot, but by and large the same play as on Wednesday was enacted before an Oval crowd, most of them with both ears on the Test match. The leading part of saviour of the side was yesterday given a more flamboyant interpretation by Alistair Brown than by his Essex counterpart, Darren Robinson, on the previous day, and there were other variables on the basic theme, but the similarities were extraordinary.

Surrey did rather over-play the essential plot-line in the first act: a collapse by the early order. They took matters to the extremes of dramatic tension by losing their first six wickets for 107. But this only served to make the eventual recovery to within 67 of Essex's first innings more exciting; and in Brown they had a performer outstanding for the role.

Brown had not made a championship century for Surrey since he scored one at Canterbury in August 1995. The right mix of natural flair and sensible caution has escaped him. Yesterday, though, it looked as if he had found a new maturity. He received a nasty knock on his right hand when he had made 67, but he went on playing his shots,

often taking the bottom, injured hand, off the bat as he did so. After the Surrey innings, Brown went for a precautionary X-ray and no fracture was discovered. Certainly, by the time he had finished with them, Essex were themselves in need of restoration, especially as the script demanded that the later Surrey batsmen should be obdurate to the last.

Brown made his entrance with Surrey on 36 for four wickets, 301 behind, or perhaps more to the point at that stage, needing 108 to save the follow-on. Ashley Cowan, aided by some good catching behind the wicket, was playing his part for Essex, being in the midst of a spell which brought him three wickets for

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire v Hampshire

CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 357 runs ahead of Derbyshire

Derbyshire	Hampshire
K J Barnett c Symcox b Bost 4	A S Rolfe b Renshaw 210
A S Rolfe b Renshaw 210	C J Adams c Haden b Renshaw 79
C J Adams c Haden b Renshaw 79	D J Jones b Renshaw 4
D J Jones b Renshaw 4	M E Coward c Symcox b Bost 33
M E Coward c Symcox b Bost 33	V P Clarke b Renshaw 23
V P Clarke b Renshaw 23	P A J Duffin 3
P A J Duffin 3	C Symcox b Stephenson 40
C Symcox b Stephenson 40	P Akred b Stephenson 8
P Akred b Stephenson 8	A Haden c Renshaw 10
A Haden c Renshaw 10	K J Dean not out 10
K J Dean not out 10	Extras (lb 13, w 4, nb 16) 33
Extras (lb 13, w 4, nb 16) 33	Total (122 overs) 523

Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 24 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire
R R Montgomerie c Bates b Bowen 3	M B Lloyd b Bowen 33
M B Lloyd b Bowen 33	R J Bailey b Bates b Bowen 23
R J Bailey b Bates b Bowen 23	T C Waller b Bowen 6
T C Waller b Bowen 6	D J G Sales c Bates b Acle 25
D J G Sales c Bates b Acle 25	J N Snape c Weston b Tolley 10
J N Snape c Weston b Tolley 10	T D Bickley c Brown b Pich 7
T D Bickley c Brown b Pich 7	J E Embury b Bowen 39
J E Embury b Bowen 39	J P Taylor not out 12
J P Taylor not out 12	Uddemann c Adams c Alzai b Pich 7
Uddemann c Adams c Alzai b Pich 7	Extras (lb 5, lb 4) 9
Extras (lb 5, lb 4) 9	Total (108.2 overs) 236

Durham v Sussex

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 64 runs behind Sussex

Durham	Sussex
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93
N J Latham b Brown 93	N J Latham b Brown 93

Surrey v Essex

THE OVAL (second day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 107 runs ahead of Surrey

Surrey	Essex
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107
Alistair Brown 107	Essex 107

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 303 runs ahead of Yorkshire

Gloucestershire	Yorkshire
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303
Gloucestershire 303	Yorkshire 303

Kent v Warwickshire

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (second day of four): Kent, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are five runs ahead of Warwickshire

Kent	Warwickshire
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5
Kent 5	Warwickshire 5

Middlesex v Leicestershire

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 19 runs ahead of Leicestershire

Middlesex	Leicestershire
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19
Middlesex 19	Leicestershire 19

University match

Oxford University v Glamorgan

THE PARKS (first day of three): Glamorgan won toss. Oxford University, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 348 runs behind Glamorgan

Glamorgan	Oxford University
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
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Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348

Oxford University v Glamorgan

THE PARKS (first day of three): Glamorgan won toss. Oxford University, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 348 runs behind Glamorgan

Glamorgan	Oxford University
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
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Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
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Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348
Glamorgan 348	Oxford University 348

CRICKET

Lancashire show little appetite for uphill task

By PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset (20pts) beat Lancashire (4) by seven wickets

WHEN people talk about splitting the county championship into two divisions, Lancashire blithely assume that they will be in the Premiership like their neighbours at the other Old Trafford. If they carry on playing like they did in this match they would be lucky to get into the third division north.

It could be said that their performance improved by about 100 per cent between the first day and the second since they scored almost twice as many runs and resisted for nearly twice as many overs. Yet they were still humiliated

they played on it. If being bowled out for 88 in 22.1 overs on the first morning could be considered unfortunate, being dismissed for 164 in 43.4 overs yesterday afternoon, certainly could not.

The notion that batsmen had to get as many runs as they could before the pitch got them was senseless: the application, in too many cases, were spineless.

Because they are used to playing on flat pitches at Old Trafford, they appeared to have unnerved, first by the sight of Kevin Shine swinging the ball around to take seven for 43 in their first innings, then by the spectacle of Jason Gallian being struck on the hand by Adrianus van Troost and suffering his fifth fracture in two years.

SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 88 (K J Shine 7 for 43)

Lancashire	First Innings
J E R Gallian retired hurt 16	
S P Titchard b van Troost 16	
P C McKewen b Rose 11	
G Chappell b Shine 10	
N H Fairbrother c Pearson b Shine 15	
G D Lloyd c Turner b van Troost 5	
M Wadsworth c Bowler b Shine 28	
I D Austin b Mushtaq 24	
H W K Hegg c Bowler b van Troost 5	
P J Martin c Mushtaq b van Troost 11	
G Keady not out 5	
Extras (lb 9, w 3, nb 16) 28	
Total 164	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-49, 3-64, 4-89, 5-116, 6-121, 7-135, 8-154

BOWLING: van Troost 14-1-79-3; Shine 17-2-54-4; Mushtaq Ahmed 7-3-6-7-1; Rose 5-6-15-1

SOMERSET: First Innings 168 (P D Bowler 55, G Chappell 4 for 80, P J Martin 4 for 29)

Somerset	First Innings
M N Latham c Hegg b Martin 18	
P D Bowler b van Troost 55	
P C L Hollows not out 29	
R J Harden b Chappell 5	
Mushtaq Ahmed not out 9	
Extras (lb 2) 2	
Total (31 wickets) 66	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-31, 3-57

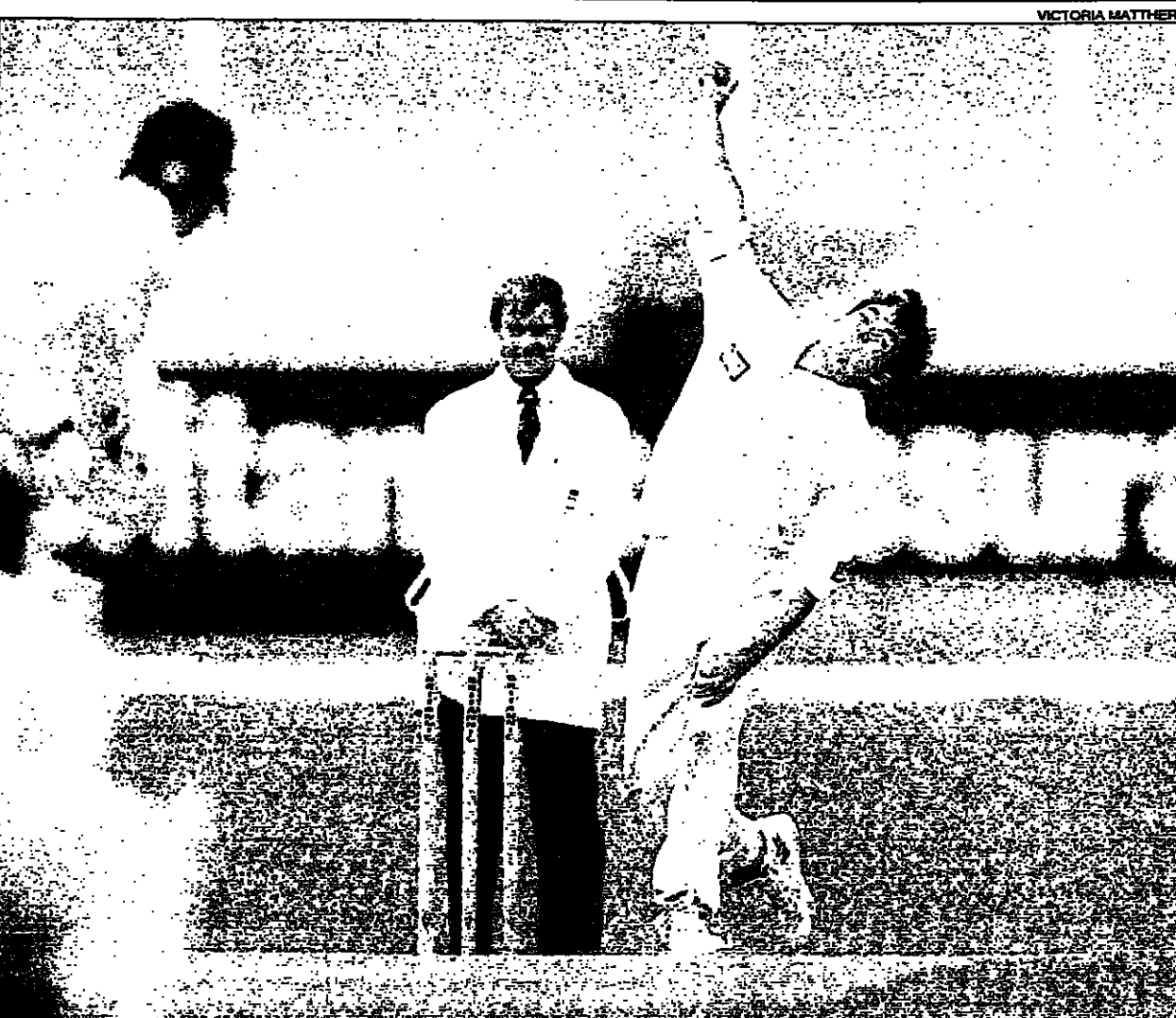
BOWLING: Martin 9-4-21-2; Chappell 4-0-17-1; Austin 7-1-16-0; Hegg 12-5-10-0

Umpires: J D Bond and N T Pears

with more than 18 overs and two days to spare. And that despite the fact that there was no play before lunch yesterday because of rain.

Dav Whatmore, their Australian coach, laid the blame squarely on the pitch which, he said, was "definitely sub-standard". But the umpires reiterated that they would not be condemning it in their report to Lord's.

Whatmore's contention was that Lancashire handed Somerset the advantage when they chose to bat first because they underestimated the surface moisture in the pitch. Yet rather than blaming the conditions he would surely be better employed inviting his batsmen to consider the way



Wright waits as Silverwood, the Yorkshire fast bowler, strains to gain a breakthrough at Headingley yesterday

Hobbling Lynch adds to damage

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 303 runs ahead of Yorkshire

THE first-day demons in the Headingley wicket disappeared, perhaps in deference to a visitation by Harry Brind, the English Cricket Board pitch inspector. Well used to motorway dashes, only for surfaces to simmer down the morning after the day before, Brind deemed no further action would be necessary after the 16-wicket tumble on Wednesday.

All was still not sweetness and light. David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, at first slip, claimed a low catch edged by Mark Alleyne, his opposite number, when Alleyne was on 12. The Gloucestershire captain, who advanced to an unbeaten 49, stood his ground and after consultation between the umpires was ruled not out.

A mellowing surface simply enhanced Gloucestershire's command. Their irresistible victory march is fortified by Michael Vaughan, the Yorkshire opener with a cracked wrist, being unable to bat except in an emergency.

Yorkshire have been in that state for most of the two days, failing to cope with Monte Lynch, who tweaked a hamstring, limped and hobbled

but scored his second half-century of the match. Gloucestershire's strong position had been made possible by Michael Smith, whose six for 58 followed his match figures of ten for 106 against Hampshire last month, and by the batting of Tony Wright and Lynch.

Wright made 79 before Byas took a sharp catch at first slip. Smith returned three for 27 in his morning spell, dismissing Gavin Hamilton with a ball hustling through fiendishly, to illustrate that the pitch had not altogether lost its split personality of highs and lows. Richard Blakey was the other key individual, scoring 51 not out from 118 balls as those around him perished.

The uneven bounce meant that the sweep became a dangerous stroke but Lynch dived with danger and prospered. His share of a half-century partnership with Alleyne — 41 — summed up his panache.

The champagne was probably flowing already for Gloucestershire, in second place before this round of matches, as they edged back towards the top spot, occupied by Glamorgan, who are without a championship match. The initial celebrations were for Martyn Ball, the off spinner, who had returned from a quick trip home after the birth of a son.

Noon and Johnson enliven drab day

By JAMES ALLEN

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 24 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

AFTER another attritional day, little separates these teams. That Nottinghamshire have a modest lead is almost entirely thanks to Wayne Noon, whose gritty innings of 83 held the side together when it seemed to be slowly disintegrating. For Northamptonshire, the plot is recurring painfully: like Bowen, who troubled them with the ball, Noon used to ply his trade here.

This was his highest first-class score and he deserved a century, not least for enlivening a drab encounter. He hit 13 fours and hoisted Taylor over long-on for six, timing the ball almost as well as Johnson, who made the other meaningful contribution. Though he came in with Nottinghamshire at 91 for six, Noon showed that there was nothing to fear in the pitch and that aggression had a place amid defiance.

For about an hour before lunch, Johnson had done likewise, making a nonsense of the nudges and flicks that had been the common currency of the game. He simply stood there and whacked the ball. It was like a cloudburst in a drought. His first six scoring

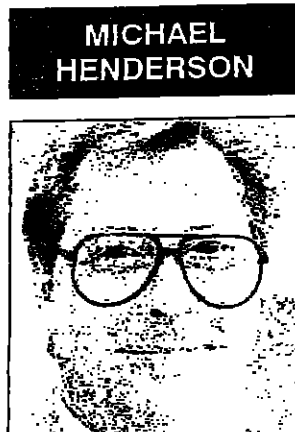
shots were boundaries, glorious in their lack of inhibition. Mohammad Akram suffered more than most and struggled to find his rhythm throughout the day. He has some work to do to prove his worth to his new county.

Until Noon got stuck in, no one had dared to follow Johnson's lead and seize the moment when Nottinghamshire had the upper hand. To some extent, the lack of ambition was understandable. Without the injured Robinson and Pollard, they are a fresh-faced team playing for their places. Astle, who has scored Test centuries against West Indies and England, is an exception. But his first innings for Nottinghamshire lasted only five balls, Bailey picking up a good low catch at third slip.

Curran can take credit for making life difficult for the batsmen: he had Walton leg-before, offering no shot, and bowled Afzal and Dowman through the gate, swinging the ball back into the left-handers. Johnson had perished making room to cut Embury in the over before lunch and he was furious with himself. It was the cue for the match to return to its somnolent state, eyelids growing heavy as Embury bewitched. Fortunately, Noon made everyone sit up and take notice before Taylor found his outside edge ten minutes from the close.

Simmering bowler takes out his frustration on Australia

Caddick soon comes to the boil



At Edgbaston

GOODNESS gracious, what a day! As English bowlers blew away Australian batsmen in the morning, an assembly of pre-teens in the Rea Bank Stand squeaked its treble chorus. Later, when the grog had done its work and Hussain and Thorpe were associating with wonderful freedom, there was more adult encouragement from the other side. By the end of a long day, Edgbaston was awash with communal stupefaction.

It was one of those "I was there" occasions and made for a truly extraordinary start to the summer's Test cricket. The way that the crowd lapped it up might finally have persuaded the England players that they are beginning to win back the trust of the cricket-watching public, although it is not always easy to judge the size of that constituency.

On Wednesday night, for instance, Radio 5 Live, which often gives the impression of being run by a common-room of excitable sixth-formers, neglected to mention the start of the Ashes series on its key evening sports round-up. Obviously, a contest that goes back 120 years is not important enough for the young thrusters of Langham Place. A few more days like this, though, and even they will be talking about English cricket



Fingers crossed: Mark Waugh walks out to bat as Taylor makes his exit yesterday

the way people used to do when Botham wore a crown. There will never be a better time for an ambitious England player to establish a place for himself in the public imagination or, in Darren Gough's case, to re-establish a place.

Gough bowled terrifically well in the morning to rip out the guts of the batting. Devon

Malcolm bowled tolerably well, but he did get the wicket of Mark Taylor to keep the Australia captain imprisoned in a vortex from which there seems to be no escape. Malcolm will not last the series, in all probability. Andrew Caddick probably will.

Caddick was peeved to be left out of the Texaco Trophy internationals and took out his

frustration on Somerset's behalf. He is an attacking bowler who is starting to bowl the fuller length he needs and there was never much doubt that he would be invited to find it at Edgbaston.

He's a funny old stick. A team-mate, asked to describe him, would say only: "He's a bit ... odd." It cannot help him that, being born and

raised in New Zealand, he is English mainly in a convenient sense. He came here to play professional cricket and it was evident that, for whatever reason, he was the only England player yesterday not to wear the new cap.

For four years, Caddick has struggled to immerse himself in the England side. He was first picked when Australia were last here and showed enough promise to be retained for the tour that followed, to the West Indies, where he returned his only two five-wicket performances before the one he completed yesterday when Malcolm held an improbably good catch at third man.

It is true that Caddick has suffered with injuries. He underwent an operation on

'People have always known that he has the talent'

shin splints two years ago knowing that, if he did not emerge a fitter man, he would never play at an acceptable level again. But that is only a partial explanation. The other part lay in his head. People knew that he had talent; they also thought that he was a mardy type who tended to make excuses when things did not go his way.

As recently as February, before England picked themselves up by their bootstraps, he was out of favour. He had not endeared himself to Michael Atherton or David Lloyd in Zimbabwe and privately they must have thought: "What sort of chap have we got here?"

They, and we, may be about to find out. He finished the winter strongly and can only benefit from belonging to an England side as a full member instead of being a "country" one. This was a good day for him, and a great one for everybody else.

Morning glory stirs memories of Tyson

John Woodcock fondly remembers a Test match morning of comparable English euphoria — in Melbourne 42 years ago

The euphoria at Edgbaston yesterday, first when Australia were being reduced to 54 for eight and later when Hussain and Thorpe were batting quite magnificently after tea, was something that Englishmen experience only when our old green-capped rivals are on the receiving end. And I mean that only as a compliment to them.

I have spent no happier, more heartening morning at a cricket match since Australia were losing their last eight

second innings wickets for 36 runs in the third Test match at Melbourne on the 1954-55 tour. Needing 240 to win, Australia were howled out by Frank Tyson and Brian Statham for 111 after starting the day at 75 for two. In 51 balls Tyson took six for 16, bowling at a speed that has probably never been equalled by a white man.

Australians with a long enough memory will be recalling with a good deal more pleasure the first morning of the fifth Test match at the Oval in 1948. That was much the nearest parallel in anything like "modern times" to the cricket yesterday morning. England were dismissed for 52 and a painfully protracted business it was; it took 42 overs to happen.

Ray Lindwall took 6 for 20. Keith Miller two for five and Bill Johnston two for 20, and, like England now, Australia caught everything that left the ground. Of England's 52, Len Hutton scored 30 and Norman Yardley, the captain, seven; the other nine, who included Bill Edrich and Denis Compton, managed nine between them. Hutton was first in and last out, playing a legitimate leg glance off Lindwall only to see Don Tallon dive far to his left to

catch it. Hutton's opening partner was John Dewes, who recalled yesterday how good length balls from Miller kept hitting him in the ribs.

Although, in his last Test innings, Don Bradman was to fall second ball to Eric Hollies's googly, Australia went on to win that match by an innings. If England should come somewhere near to doing the same now, they will have Hussain and Thorpe to thank as much as their bowlers.

Coming together at 50-3, on a pitch that was losing some of its earlier freshness, but was still not quite to be trusted, these two batted most splendidly. May and Compton, Edrich and Cowdrey, Barrington and Gooch could have played no better. Their driving on the half-volley showed the confidence that is already running through the England side as a result of their convincing victories in the Texaco Trophy and their bowling yesterday.

Because they were going to bat if they won the toss, England were lucky to lose it. It was as though the Gods were with them. They might have fared better than Australia had they batted first, but they were conditions in which the quicker bowlers wanted

only to have a ball in their hands. To some extent Australia's problems were caused by swing, induced by the humidity; and they had some cause for thinking it was not a good Test pitch. By the close of play, though, they were in no position to say so.

Australia were outplayed in a way that would have been unthinkable a month ago.

Outplayed is a strong word, but for this once it is a fair one to use. It means that the stage should be set for a close-fought series. Australia had an off day; for the moment they are doubting themselves; they have too many very good cricketers who are not playing for them and the mood is with England. But they are the world's greatest fighters, and this was the first day of a six-match series. They may have been taking too much for granted, but they will know better now.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

BUM BARREL

(c) The local name for the long-tailed tit, which can still be seen on bird tables in Notting Hill Gate. *Aegithalos caudatus*, but also called *Bush Oven*, *Feather Pike*, and *Huck-Muck* (for its nest). John Clare: "And coy bum barrels, twenty in a drove, / Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain."

LAUS TIBI

(a) A name for the White Narcissus, *Narcissus poeticus*. The Latin for "Good on you", "Praise to thee". "Laus Tibi or White Daffodil in Greek is called *Narkissos*."

MACHICOLATION

(c) An opening between the corbels which support a projecting parapet, or in the vault of a portal, through which combustibles, molten lead, stones, etc., were dropped on the heads of assailants. Also, a projecting structure containing a range of such openings.

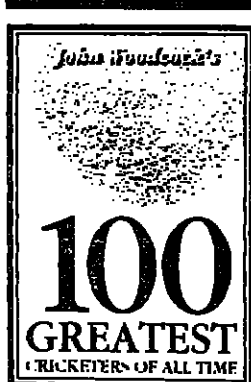
MILLEFIORE

(c) A kind of ornamental glass made by fusing glass rods of different sizes and colours, and cutting the mass into sections which exhibit ornamental figures of various pattern, and are usually embedded in colourless transparent glass to make paperweights. From the Italian for "a thousand flowers".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxe1 Rxe2 2 Rxd5- Ke7 3 Rxd8 winning easily

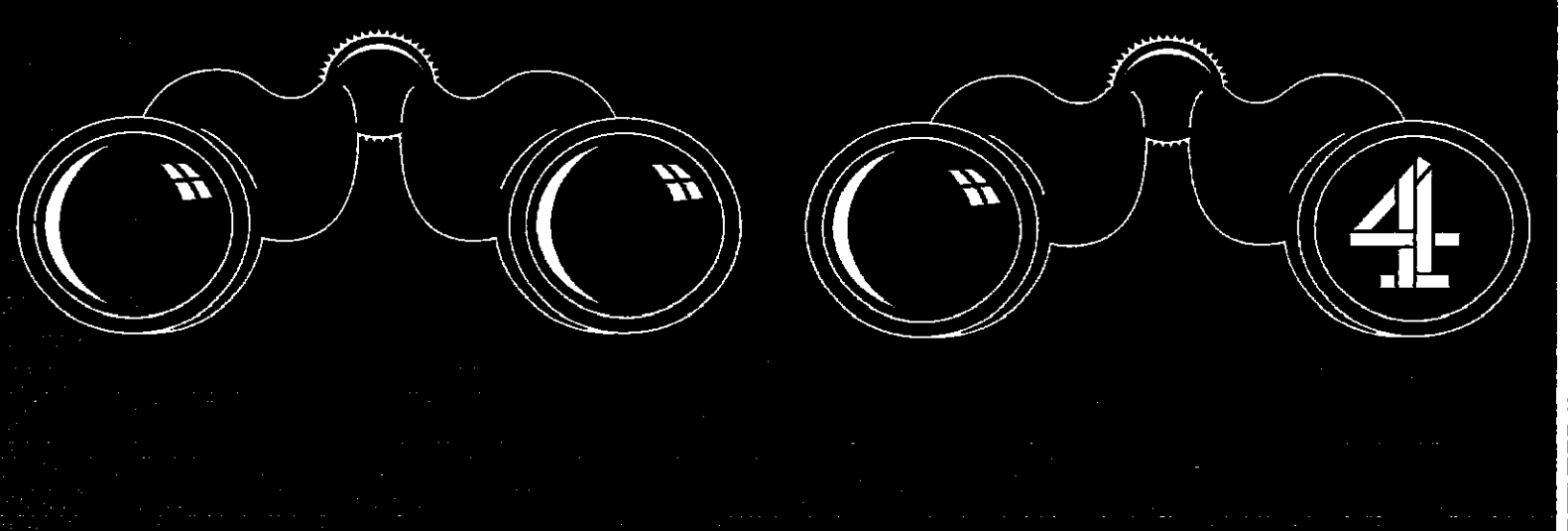
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



John Woodcock, cricket correspondent of The Times from 1954 to 1987 and a former editor of Wisden, selects the best players in the history of the game

The Derby: Tomorrow 3.45

The world's greatest race



TELEVISION CHOICE

Digging for poetic gold

Scene: Poetry Backpack
BBC2, midday

A fellow poet, John Hegley conducts an accessible introduction to the work of the Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney. The programme is ostensibly directed at schoolchildren, though adults are welcome to tune in as well. If they do, more than a few bookshops could find their shelves being scoured for Heaney's verse. Hegley's enthusiasm for his subject has that effect. His approach is to suggest that poetry is a form of digging, an appropriate metaphor as Heaney grew up on a farm. The poems discussed by Hegley, with key lines helpfully displayed on the screen, are mainly about digging in Northern Ireland and are a distillation of the poet's own experiences. Catherine Byron and Tom Paulin, also poets as well as university lecturers in literature, add their admiring and unpretentious gloss.

The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous
ITV, 9.00pm

Jilly Cooper's story of adultery and seduction comes to the screen promising more than it delivers. Great drama it is not and even as a sexual romp it does not possess the necessary style and humour. But on its own preposterous terms there is much to enjoy. For a start the characters have such strange names. Headed by the lovely Lysander Hawkley, played by Stephen Billington, he is a young man of impossibly good looks whose job is to mend marriages. The idea is that rich and neglected wives employ him for a generous fee as a means of luring their philandering husbands back to the fold. So, after everybody has jumped into bed with everybody else, conventional morality is finally restored. As one of the newly reconciled husbands tells his spouse: "All I ever wanted was the best for you, for me and for the kids." Bet you never thought you would hear that line again.

Drivers' Gold
BBC1, 9.30pm

"There is a darkness about the man". No, this is not Ann Widdecombe laying into Michael Howard, but a sombre voice in Armstrong, the cattle drive's bearded blacksmith, after he tries to



Stephen Billington (ITV, 9.00pm)

drown himself. Armstrong, it transpires, has a guilty secret which made him throw himself into the river with a bag of rocks. He is not the only one harking back to an unhappy past. Since the drive itself, for all sorts of diversionary reasons, is still struggling to get across the border from Wales into England, the drama needs such skeleton rattling to maintain its momentum. Progress is further diverted by an uncommon number of romantic liaisons. Call *Driver's Gold* a western if you wish, but John Wayne would have frowned the bad guys and had the cattle to market long ago.

Harry Hill
Channel 4, 10.30pm

Does Harry Hill have those huge shirt collars specially made or can anyone buy them? Has he got a crush on Zeinab Badawi and if not why does he mention her so often on his shows? If this is beginning to sound like a Hill script, his quickfire nonsensical patter can be catching. It is difficult to be wheedled original in the comedy business and Hill owes more than a passing debt to the Goons. But the Goons were a long time ago and Hill has the tradition almost to himself. The level of inspiration varies and half an hour of sustained brilliance is too much to expect, particularly as Hill writes and performs all his material. But he is one of the best of the current crop of younger comedians and almost alone among them in that his humour is virtually a smut-free zone. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Born Free
Radio 2, 9.15pm

Joy Adamson was murdered by tribesmen in Kenya 17 years ago, an event made all the more shocking by the fact that Adamson and her husband had seemed, to casual followers of their lives, to be part of the fabric of Africa. But the defence of animals makes enemies everywhere. *Born Free*, an eight-part reading by Virginia McKenna today, was published in 1960, became a huge best-seller and was made into a successful film, complete with a tacky theme song sung by Matt Monro. The glorification of Joy Adamson tended to make her seem a naive romantic, yet the book shows that she had the toughness to make a real difference. *Born Free* is a terrific read which was well ahead of its time.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Carol Campbell, includes Afternoon Loveless 4.00pm Kevin Greening 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Pete Tong - Essential Selection 10.00pm One in the Jungle 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Anne Robinson 1.00pm Debbie Thorne 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm Chris Serle 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Friday Night is Music 9.15pm Born Free See Choice (1/8) 9.30pm A Taste of Brass 10.00pm Shandon Morley 12.00am Sue McGarry incl at 2.30am Focus for Thought with Pauline Webb

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mar 2.00 Focus on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Newsweek 7.00 News Extra 7.20pm Friday Sport Includes: St Helens v Auckland Warriors and London Broncos v Brisbane in the Super League world club championships; Plus French Open tennis from Paris 10.00pm Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00pm News Extra with David McNeill 12.00am After Hours with Allan Boswick 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dain

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Rose 9.00 Sport Chisham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Driveline, with Peter Dingley 7.00pm Mox Dee's Sportszone 10.00pm Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Bridge (Shirley Quartet No 1 in E minor), Albinoni (Concerto in G, Op 10 No 8), Borodin (Polovtsian Dances), Beethoven (Symphony in E flat, Op 71), Turina (Sextet, Scene Andalouse), Rameau (In Concerto) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, includes Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K330), Handel (Incidental Music, Cornus in Tchaikovsky (Overture, Francesca da Rimini) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Bach (Jesu, Joy, Nelson (Pan and Syrinx), Lysipuvov (Transcendental Study No 12), Bach (Concerto in C minor for Violin and Oboe, BWV1060), Bar (Greek Folk Songs), Poulenc (Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano), Leduc (Premiere Recitation, Op 6), and Frerberger (Lamentation on the Death of Ferdinand III), Thomas (Pithead (Rondo Lento), Robert Sauton (Concerto for Orchestra) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvorak Abroad 1.00pm News, 1.35pm Summer Recital, Live from the concert hall of New Broadcasting House Rodney Stafford introduces the Gould Trio, Lucy Gould, violin, Martin Storey, cello and Gretel Dowdell, piano Haydn (Piano Trio in A, Brahms (Piano Trio in C, Op 87) 2.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley talks to Sir Richard Eyn, the artistic director of the National Theatre 3.00 Mining the Archive, Sandy Burnett introduces music recorded by the oldest Leon Goossens includes Britten's Fantasy Quartet and Arnold's Sonata 5.00 Music Machine, Steve Tazara demonstrates music on his Internet website. Plus a look at whether 3-D radio is possible

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, Sue Lawley hosts to the pianist Joanna MacGregor (r) 9.45 The Truth is Our Currency, See Choice (4/4) 10.00 News: A Dance Called America (FM), The historian James Hunter tells the story of transatlantic emigration from Scotland. Settlers who moved to Cape Breton left there was the same "energy in the ground" (4/5) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Gail Foley 10.55-1.00pm Test Match Special (LW), England v Australia, 1.00pm News, the second day's play of the first Test from Edgbaston 12.00 News: You and Yours (FM), with Mark Whitaker 12.55pm Food Programme (FM), Presented by David Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 1.40-6.30 Test Match Special (LW), Continued coverage from Edgbaston 2.00 News: Classic Serial: Mansfield Park (FM), The final part of Jane Austen's story (r) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift (FM) 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM), Tim Marlow looks at contemporary British sculpture in the garden of the Dulwich Picture Gallery. And he sees the Mark Morris dance group in a new English National Opera 4.45 Short Story: Famous for One Thing (FM), by Muriel Nazzari Read by Chris Harris

5.00 PM (FM), with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News (FM) 6.30 A Man with Little Faith, David Neal Lodge begins a journey from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean. Each weekly destination will have to be reached within four days and will be determined by the throw of a die. Listeners are invited to e-mail, fax, or telephone the show with advice on the best route to take 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, Simon Hoggart presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate in Settle, North Yorkshire With Angela Browning, MP, the contemporary historian, Professor Peter Hennessy, the Minister for the Environment, Michael Meacher, and Times columnist Matthew Parris 8.50 Law in Action, Louise Shorter reports on the possibility of Britain making denial of the Holocaust a criminal offence 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature, Peter Curran interviews Julian Clary (r) 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lush 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Graffiti, by Jonathan Treitel Read by David Huxley 11.00 Week Ending, A satirical look at the week's news by Times columnist John Diamond 11.25 Fourth Column, A quizical look at life presented by Times columnist John Diamond 11.45 Today in Parliament, A roundup of the day's events in Westminster 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: The Information, by Martin Amis (15/15) (r) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 695. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1187, 1215. LATE RADIO, MW 1053, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

If there's a next time, drop the dead audience

Several times over the past few weeks I have been tempted to return to the subject of *Keeping Mum* (BBC1). But each time I have reread my original review and thought: "Have I got anything new to say?" And for the most part, I hadn't. Seriously not funny it began and seriously not funny it remained.

Now it has finished. Medical columnists can stop writing about whether Peggy (Stephanie Cole) was suffering from the simple confusion of old age or the middle stages of Alzheimer's and television reviewers can stop writing paragraphs that begin "Stephanie Cole was brilliant, but..."

Stephanie Cole was brilliant, but... Martin Ball, who played Andrew, the stay-at-home son, was even better. Whether this is any compensation for an actor who has had the misfortune to be in both *Chalk* and *Keeping Mum*, I don't know — especially as the quality of

the performance is one of the main reasons the series isn't funny. Andrew's life has been ruined by his mother's marriage is over, his career on hold, his social life non-existent. Last night's episode ended with his former wife quietly explaining that if even his mother was in a home (and she wasn't for long) she wouldn't be coming back. "I left you because we're different." Even the studio audience, which quickly established itself as one of the most irritating in sitcom history, had the grace not to laugh.


Cole's meticulous performance as Peggy adds to the confusion. As Andrew put it: "I don't know whether you are vague or whether you are pretending to be vague." Nor do we, which is why we don't know whether to laugh or not. On the one hand, Peggy is only funny when she's bawdy, a fact which in this medically enlightened age makes us feel awkward when

we're invited to laugh at it. On the other, when she is lucid, she reveals herself as a selfish, manipulative old bar who ought to be packed off into long-term care immediately. There, I think that should guarantee a second series.

If there were to be a second series, the BBC might like to follow the example of *TV* which currently has two comedies, *My Wonderful Life* and *See You Friday*, running without studio laughter at all. Once you get used to it, it's wonderfully refreshing, both for the actors, who no longer have to invent extra bits of acting to do while the tumults subside, and for us. A smile is no longer an admission of failure.

The cast of *My Wonderful Life* has relished this new freedom and come up with a comedy that got better and better as it went along. Emma Wray has been a treat as Donna, the lippy

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

nurse and single mother of two, but has received outstanding support from everyone around. Tony Robinson judged to perfection Alan, who as her immensely irritating next-door neighbour, was the only part that threatened to succumb to sitcom stereotype. Liz Berrington, as Marina, his increasingly rebellious wife, particularly after a delicious double encounter with Roger (Hamish

Clark), was wickedly enjoyable. Simon Nye, who created the series but rotated writing duties with Paul Dorman and Amanda Swift, returned for last night's episode, the final one in the series, which saw Donna tempted by a job offer in Portugal. This produced a mixed response among her two admirers. Dr Roger was prepared to give up everything to come with her, while Lawrie, the ambulance driver who never does anything without his blue light on, was more sanguine: "Relationships are like T-shirts: they come in all styles and you should try and change them regularly." It sounds like a line from Nye's best known creation, *Mr. Behaving Badly*, but we can forgive that.

Donna, for reasons that were hard to fathom, was reluctant to swap her life of hospital drudgery and relentless poverty for one of sunshine and yachts in Portugal: "Once you've seen one swarthy

fisherman, you've seen them all." Bridget (Claire Perkins), who as well as being her best friend is black, bristled: "That's a relief, for a moment I thought you were going to say something prejudiced." Lovely. Now, if somebody could do something about the appalling music in *See You Friday*...

On Channel 4, more serious matters were under discussion, as the excellent *Health Alert* continued its fine run with a report on premature menopause, while *Dispatches* took a new look at the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, outside the Libyan Embassy in London, 13 years ago. Both were long on personal anecdote but somewhat short of hard facts, the former because shamefully little work seems to have been done into the causes of early menopause, the latter because the reporter, Joe Layburn, is

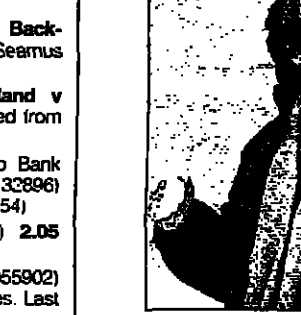
not a man to let substantiated facts stand in the way of a good conspiracy theory.

He took off at speed, a tactic that makes for good television but always makes me worry about holes in the evidence. Two gunmen not one (where have we heard that before?), one using a sub-machine-gun as previously reported, one a hand gun smuggled into the country by a member of the Berlin underworld. Layburn's contention was that the lethal shot came not from a Libyan diplomat, inside the embassy, but from a gunman next door, working for an anti-Gaddafi terrorist group already responsible for the deaths of several Libyan diplomats. He further contended that both British and American intelligence knew that guns were likely to be used in St James's Square, but failed to inform the police. A good effort but, thanks to too much time spent in Berlin, not an altogether convincing one.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (97631)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (85525)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5964728)
9.20 Style Challenge (3867964)
9.50 Killy (1877411)
10.25 Who'd Do the Pudding? Valentina Harris, Sophie Grigson and Jeanne Rankin prepare a family picnic (1494369)
10.45 News, Regional News (T) and weather (883007)
10.50 Cricket: First Test England v Australia Live coverage of the opening play on day two at Edgbaston. Introduced by Tony Lewis. Continues on BBC2 (9355877)
12.35pm Neighbours (4921506)
1.00 News (T) and weather (88612)
1.30 Regional News (T) (1505877)
1.40 Cricket: First Test England v Australia Tony Lewis introduces live coverage from Edgbaston. Continues on BBC2 (3804057)
4.00 Bodger and Badger (T) (5714070) 4.15 Ace Ventura, Pet Detective (T) (9241341) 4.35 Clarissa Explains It All (T) (6218186) 5.00 Newsround (T) (9380099) 5.10 Blue Peter. Celebrating International Year of the Reef with reports from the Cayman Islands, Portsmouth, Seattle Centre and the island of Zanzibar, off Africa's east coast (T) (7688902)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (296815)
6.00 News (T) and weather (341)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (T) (683)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog On the eve of the Derby, Jonathan Maitland reports from Epsom racecourse on the jockeys who refuse to pay up on winning bets. Plus: the rescue team fly to Kenya to save holidaymakers staying in a squalid hotel in Mombasa (T) (6728)
7.30 Top of the Pops presented by Jayne Middlemiss (T) (877)
8.00 X Cars The squad are on the trail of villains who can disguise a car's true identity in a matter of hours (T) (2148)
8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers A new series presented by Terry Wogan who is joined by golfing enthusiast Jimmy Tarbuck, while comic duo Parsons and Naylor take a sideways look at the world of sports broadcasting (4983)
9.00 News (T), Regional News (T) and weather (3235)
9.30 Drivers' Gold Set in mid-19th-century Wales, a cattle dealer and a struggling farmer enter into a bitter feud. With David Calder and Geraldine James (25) (T) (169457)
10.25 The Accused (1988) Jodie Foster in the powerful role of a woman, gang-raped in a bar, who perseveres in getting justice. Jonathan Kaplan (T) (12678)
12.10am What Happened to Aunt Alice? (1999) with Geraldine Pike, Rosemary Forsyth and Robert Fuller. A sinister widow finds a macabre way of acquiring wealth. She hires well-off housekeepers who then disappear under mysterious circumstances. Directed by Lee H Katzin (82337)
1.45-1.50 Weather (834552)

- 6.00am O U: Bangkok: a City Speaks** (T) (3552438) 6.25 Politics of Equal Opportunity (T) (9631457)
7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) and weather (1274983)
7.30 Teenage Turtles (T) (6199877) 7.55 50/50 (T) (6107866) 8.25 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (1758709)
8.35 The Record (2931254)
9.00 The French Experience (5931490) 9.15 The French Collection (167273) 9.45 Watch (4446506) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) (49235) 10.30 Watch Out (4313525) 10.45 Pathways of Belief (4301780) 11.00 Look and Read (4564907) 11.20 Job Bank (2490419) 11.30 Geography Programme (5070)
12.00 English File: Poetry Back- (T) (9631457)
12.35pm Cricket: First Test England v Australia Live coverage continued from BBC1 (492149)
1.00 Job Bank (10627419) 1.10 Job Bank (4587589) 1.20 Lifestyles (9013388) 1.45 Words and Pictures (1505254)
2.00 Garden Fairies (T) (2303999) 2.05 Tooth Fairies (T) (2448439)
2.10 Alias Smith and Jones (T) (3055902) 3.00 News (T) 3.05 Making Babies. Last in series (4071148) 3.55 News
4.00 Cricket: First Test - England v Australia Further coverage from Edgbaston (7628963)
6.25 Star Trek (T) (624439)
7.15 Great Railway Journeys: Mombasa to the Mountains of the Moon Explorer. Benedict Allen searches for the source of the White Nile — by rail (T) (137780)
8.00 Visions of Snowdonia The Good Shepherd. The story of sheep farmer John Lewis, on Cader Idris (T) (3490)
8.30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh creates a rustic effect with willow rods and hazel (T) (2525)
9.00 The Fast Show (T) (1877)
9.30 VIP (Very Important Persons) (T) Dennis Pennis puts another crop of personalities on the spot (40051)
10.00 Have I Got News for You The last of the series featuring guests Germaine Greer and Lee Simpson (34902)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (541457)
11.15 Cricket: First Test - England v Australia Highlights (768815)
11.55 This Life (T) (768815)
12.40am-2.20am Rhapsody in August (1990) Akira Kurosawa's sentimental drama, with Richard Gere, Sachiko Murakami and Hiroaki Yashiki. A grandmother changes the lives of her family by recalling the death of her husband during the atom bomb attack on Nagasaki. Directed by Akira Kurosawa in Japanese with English subtitles (778858)

- 6.00am GMTV** (9736815)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (3884631)
9.55 Regional News (T) (4578964)
10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (38761)
10.30 This Morning (5692254)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (1347070)
12.30 News (T) and weather (4940631)
12.55 Our House (T) (492522) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (9013383) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (5477698) 2.50 Garden Calendar (T) (2632039)
3.20 News (3100728)
3.25 Regional News (T) (3109099)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (3910186) 3.40 Slim Pig (886167) 3.50 Cartoon Time (885051)
4.00 The Treacle People (T) (5716438) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (8227761) 4.40 Crazy Cottage. Last in series (T) (6542896)
5.10 A Country Practice (825896)
5.40 News (T) and weather (439683)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (273450)
6.25 HTV Weather (199099)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (761)
7.00 Lucky Numbers (T) (1896)
7.30 Coronation Street Jack and Vera search for a solution to their financial difficulties (T) (273)
8.00 The Bill Loxton faces a dilemma when a pretty young suspect makes it quite clear she finds him attractive (T) (3524)



Neil Pearson as Greg (8.30pm)

- 8.30 See You Friday** Greg and Lucy have just about had enough of the frustrations involved in living 300 miles apart and decide to rectify the situation. With Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth (T) (9051)
9.00 The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous Three-part adaptation of Jilly Cooper's racy tale (T) (8273)
10.00 News (T) and weather (38728)
10.30 Regional News (T) (794235)
10.40 Sounds of the West Featuring four new bands of differing styles (888490)
11.15 Indecency (1992) with Jennifer Beals, James Remar and Sammi Davis. Crime thriller about two women whose lives are plunged into chaos when a colleague is found dead. Directed by Marisa Silver (347896)
12.40am The Preppie Murder (1989) with William Baldwin, Joanna Kerns and Danny Aiello. Legal drama based on the true story of an innocent girl's shocking death in New York's Central Park. Directed by John Herzfeld (883738)
2.25 Club Nelson (T) (9943991)
3.30 Bonkers (T) (9615738)
4.25 Phenomena (96377674)
4.35 Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (T) (8158730)
5.00 Coronation Street (T) (49571)
5.30 News (40587)

- As HTV West except:**
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4925322)
2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2632099)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8825896)
5.45-6.00 Central News (571815)
10.40 Film: Another Day (39623631)
12.25am Profile (4843552)
12.45 In Bed with Melinder (7407833)
1.20 Bonkers (7417200)
2.30 Baywatch (5138484)
3.10 Cyber Cafe (44730194)
3.35 Heiter Skeller (8176194)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (7125465)
5.20 Asian Eye (4558465)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (1947070)
12.55 Home and Away (4925322)
1.25 Robinson Country (2343877)
1.55 Gardeners' Diary (1713493)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (550244)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8825896)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (32032)
10.30 Westcountry News (718815)
10.45 Film: Who's Harry Crumb? (92757070)

- MERIDIAN**
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4925322)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (5485815)
2.50-3.20 Serve Up (2632099)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8825896)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (32032)
10.29 Pollen Count (348099)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (718815)
10.45 Highlander (481326)
11.40 Wiseguy (942322)
5.00am FreeScreen (49571)

- As HTV West except:**
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (1933877)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4925322)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (5485815)
2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2632099)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8825896)
6.25 Anglia Weather (190728)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (571815)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (348099)
10.40 Film: Futureworld (19647254)

- 6.00am Sesame Street** (T) (80341) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (78235) 9.00 Bewitched (T) (15877)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (4443419) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (4464902) 10.00 Fourways Farm (281235) 10.15 Scoopscapes (3950513) 10.25 Technology Programme (5199928) 10.40 Of Limbs (7303438) 11.05 The Score (1483815) 11.30 School at Work (1562051) 11.40 GINO — Is It For You? (4640051)
12.00 Garden Party (T) (28341) 12.30pm Light Lunch (85099) 1.30 Moving People (T) (T) (54254)
2.00 Racing from Epsom Live coverage of the 2.10, 2.45, 3.20 and 4.00 (Vodafone Oaks) (854235)
4.30 Countdown (T) (6200525) 4.55 Ricki Lake. Sisters get their own back on their interfering brothers (T) (4585893) 5.30 Animal Passions. A nostalgic look at horse-drawn ploughs and the history of Jack Russell terriers (T) (438)
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans interviews U2 in New York (63902)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (373308)
7.50 The Political Slot (955606)
8.00 Channel Four Racing A preview of tomorrow's Vodafone Derby (T) (8186)
8.30 Brookside Will Ron be forced to close the Trading Post? And will Gladys make the right decision about her future? (T) (7893)
9.00 Cybill Cybill and Maryann receive a free trip to Japan (T) (8273)
9.30 Spin City: Hot in the City Mike struggles with both his former girlfriend, who is determined to have his baby — with or without his assistance and his boss's ill-timed words. Starring Michael J. Fox (T) (42419)
10.00 Frasier Oooh! Frasier passes on some gossip which costs Bulldog his job (T) (29070)

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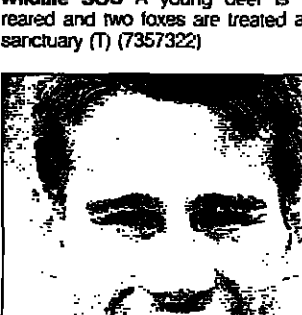
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- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
6.00am 5 News Early (8707483)
7.30 Havalakoo (3670051) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (3885051) 8.30 WideWorld (8884322)
9.00 Espresso (5141998) 10.00 Exclusive (T) (1788419) 10.30 Nancy Lam (T) (T) (8804186)
11.00 Lezza (1018254) 11.50 Double Espresso (8848001) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8895438) 12.30 Family Affairs (T) (T) (7616439)
1.00 5 News (52053457) 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (9852893) 2.00 5's Company (8509693)
3.30 It's a Grand Life (1954, b/w) with Diana Dors, Frank Randle and Dan O'Grady. Barrack room comedy about a beautiful corporal and a charming private. Directed by John E. Blakey (8800229)
5.30 100 Per Cent (7370273)
6.00 Whistle (T) (7377186)
6.30 Family Affairs Elsa gets her own back on Angus (T) (7368438)
7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (6424273)
7.30 Wildlife SOS A young deer is hand reared and two foxes are treated at the sanctuary (T) (7357322)

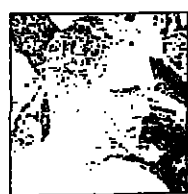


Presenter Tim Vincent (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Attractions** Frankie Delton joins Tim Vincent for a tour of Epsom on the eve of the Derby (6406933)
8.30 5 News (T) (6429728)
9.00 Ruby-Jean and Joe (1995) with Tom Selleck, Rebekah Johnson and JoBeth Williams. Road movie about an ageing radio host. Directed by Geoffrey Sax (9583051)
10.55 Exclusive Extra (4378326)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (1201438)
11.40 Club Class Fast-moving revue show featuring comedians from Britain and America (6437070)
12.10am News and Sport (1853552)
12.15 Ebbtide (1994) Legal drama with Harry Hamlin, Judy McIntosh and John Waters. Directed by Craig Lahiff (5884571)
1.55 Apology (1986) Psychological thriller with Lesley Ann Warren, Peter Weller and George C. Scott. Directed by Robert Bierman (6352658)
3.40 Burke's Law (1251262)
4.30 The Road (21647216)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3591200)
5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (8191213)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday
- SKY 1**
6.00am Morning Glory (262008) 9.00 Regis and Kerie Lee (75732) 10.00 Another World (13323) 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 2.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 3.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 6.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 7.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 8.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 9.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (93218)
SKY 2
7.00pm Superboy (914783) 7.30 Superboy (914783) 8.00 Superboy (914783) 8.30 Superboy (914783) 9.00 Superboy (914783) 9.30 Superboy (914783) 10.00 Superboy (914783) 10.30 Superboy (914783) 11.00 Superboy (914783) 11.30 Superboy (914783) 12.00 Superboy (914783)
SKY NEWS
Weekdays news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
SKY MOVIES
6.00am The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490) 8.00 The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490) 9.00 The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490) 10.00 The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490) 11.00 The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490) 12.00 The Us Boys Ted (1994) (58490)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Girl in Room 17 (1953) (58523) 10.00 Freddie as FROD (1992) (8006) 10.00 To Be or Not to Be (1942)

- 8.57-9.00** 12.00 Derby (1988) (89047) 1.30-2.00 Extreme (911802)
9.00 My Cat (1994) (6457) 6.00 Derby (1988) (42633) 7.30 UK Top 10 (1967) 8.00 The Simpsons (1989) (51341) 9.00 The Simpsons (1989) (51341) 10.00 The Simpsons (1989) (51341) 11.00 The Simpsons (1989) (51341) 12.00 The Simpsons (1989) (51341)
SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm The True Glory (1341348) 6.30 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 7.00 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 7.30 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 8.00 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 8.30 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 9.00 The Longest Day (1962) (8073047) 9.30 The Longest Day (196



RUGBY UNION 42

Lions demand action over injury that threatens Weir's career

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

FOOTBALL 46

Laid-back celebration for England stars in Italian job



Thorpe and Hussain turn Test screw after rampant bowlers run through Australia

England walk in Ashes wonderland

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (first day of five: Australia won toss; England, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 52 runs ahead of Australia)

IT WAS more than the most fevered imagination could have conceived: not yet lunch-time on the first day of an Ashes series, and Australia were 54 for eight. Even the swelling mood of patriotic optimism had prepared nobody for such a sensation and a capacity crowd rubbed disbelief eyes and marvelled. If it seemed too good — too mad — to last, then for a short while it was. Australia staged a recovery of sorts, their ninth wicket doubling the score, and then had England's top three out before tea. Union Jacks were lowered judiciously and a tense, reverential calm descended on supporters preparing for familiar disillusionment.

At this point, on a day of astounding events and cloying humidity, it must have occurred to Mark Taylor that things could, after all, get worse. At the pace that wickets were falling, it would have been no surprise to see him fail for a second time before the close, his captaincy buried with undignified haste.

It needed two opponents to relieve him, though it is doubtful if he felt like thanking them for it. Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe, refusing to be intimidated by conditions or belated by circumstance, established a positive, punishing stand, so far worth 150. It may decide the game, even dictate the series, and it was batting of the highest class.

Michael Atherton has spoken frequently and passionately of the need to cure England's propensity for the false start, but he can have envisaged nothing like this. Despite their unimpressive form on tour and the ongoing troubles of their captain, Australia are the best Test team in the world. They are also in the

habit of sprinting from the starting blocks of a series, so for England to dominate the initial day in this startling fashion was an achievement to dwarf even the monopoly of the popcorn cricket in the Texaco Trophy.

Australians have held up their heads this past fortnight by scoffing at the irrelevance of one-day cricket. The Testis, they insisted, would be quite different. So far, they could not be more wrong.

The Edgbaston pitch cannot be held responsible. It is not unblemished, both bounce and pace being too variable, but neither is it the rogue surface served up here for the past two years. When England were rampant, the principal

'I have spent no happier morning at a match since Australia lost their last eight wickets for 36 in 1955'

John Woodcock recalls another day of English euphoria, page 50

aid to some vibrant, aggressive and accurate bowling was swing, which modern Australian batsmen play poorly, but, even late in the day, the odd ball misbehaved.

It turned out to be a very good toss to lose. Taylor's decision to bat was justifiable, based on recent history at this ground: the excessive swing could not be predicted any more confidently than the assertiveness of the England bowling. All too often, England attacks have cantered half-heartedly into a Test series. The tone yesterday was established, just as Atherton had hoped and forecast, by the first ball, a perfect outswinger from Darren Gough that beat Taylor's outside edge.

The lack of pace in the pitch

was evident when Devon Malcolm's first ball did not carry to the wicketkeeper. Throughout, he was the least impressive of the three bowlers that England needed, his rhythm and radar seldom in tune, but he took two influential wickets nonetheless.

Gough struck first, hitting Elliott's off stump with late inswing. Taylor then leant into a half-volley from Malcolm and drove it for four, but it did not calm his nerves. Stretching to the next, which he could easily have left, he edged it to Butcher at second slip.

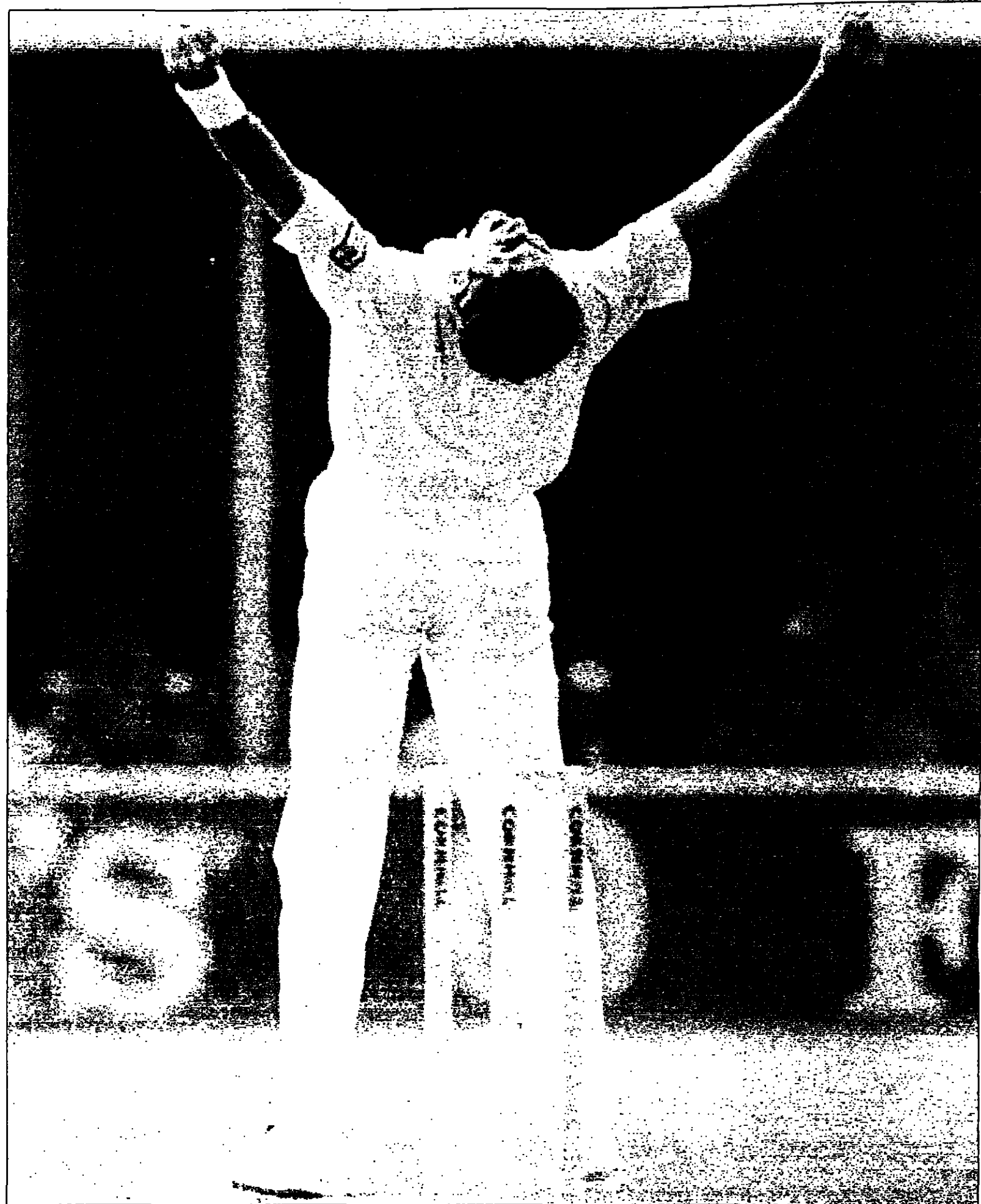
An explosive roar, indicative of dawning belief, greeted the demise of Mark Waugh, bowled while his footwork dithered. Blewett was exposed by the ball leaving him late, turned square several times and even bowled by a no-ball before stabbing the inspired Gough to third slip.

Steve Waugh has responded to many such calamities, but this one was beyond him. The fifth wicket added 20 before Andy Caddick, who had settled instantly to the right line, bowled something close to the unplayable ball to have Waugh caught behind. The next was not quite so good, but good enough for Healy, and when Bevan, transfixed by a short one from Malcolm, prodded tamely to gully, Australia's batting was gone.

It was Shane Warne who rescued them from humiliation. Atherton rightly recalled Gough against the tail, but his first two overs cost 25. Warne playing strokes born as much of fatalism as defiance. Lunch arrived, still with eight wickets down. Australia, however, did not last much longer. Caddick removing Kasprowicz through a slip catch and Warne thanks to a scuffling, stretching grab at third man by Malcolm.

Those scouring almanacs for comparable Australian totals did not have far to look — three Ashes Tests ago, at Sydney in January 1995, Gough bowled them out for 116. England, though, did not win that match and they were no certainties to win this one as Atherton was caught behind from a ball that lifted and left him, and Butcher was undone by one slanted across his body.

It became 50 for three when Stewart's selection and application of the pull shot was faulty, and one more casualty before tea would have severely tested England's mental resolve. That it did not happen,



Caddick's joy is unconfined after taking the third of his five wickets on the opening day of the first Test match at Edgbaston

indeed that no further wickets fell in the last 41 overs of a day on which 13 had fallen in 46, was due to two men. Friends as well as team-mates, batting as well as they have done for their country.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a defensible sight.

Pictures of joy, page 1
Middlesex prosper, page 48
Shining light, page 49

Bowlers suggest discipline as key element in their success

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

AFTER the shellacking they took last winter, England's cricketers could afford to bask in the Edgbaston sun yesterday but they resisted the temptation to consider their work done. "We will not be preening ourselves over one day's cricket," David Lloyd, the coach, said. But he did not deny that it had been a good day, and one that everybody enjoyed hugely.

"The captain has said repeatedly that you can only change people's attitudes towards the Test team by winning," Lloyd said. "We have worked hard over the last 12 months to change. My challenge was to get the public behind us and that has not been the case all the time. I just hope that people are now enjoying the cricket we are playing."

Lloyd was particularly impressed by the "attacking bowling in damaging areas", and by the brilliance of the counter-attack later in the day, led by Graham Thorpe and Nasser Hussain. "Absolutely top-drawer," he said. "It was orthodox batting, with flair."

Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick, whose bowling had undone Australia in the

morning, admitted that the conditions favoured them. Caddick also admitted he was surprised by the degree of swing but denied that batting was impossible. "The simple fact was, we were very disciplined in our bowling."

According to Gough, "it is a pitch where, if you get the ball in the right area, it will do a bit. I don't think we bowled more than eight short balls in their innings. We are confident we can do the job but we won't be resting until we take the tenth wicket of their second innings."

England's spirit, so evident in the Texaco Trophy interna-

tionals, was again the talk of a crowd that could sense a new sense of togetherness. Gough and Caddick agreed there was a genuine spirit of comradeship in the dressing-room, forged during the winter. "When you look at our side," Gough said, "there aren't many in the world that can match it for talent but we have to do it over a period of time."

Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, offered no excuses for his team's display.

"We had a poor day. We batted badly and bowled badly," he said. "It was a disappointing start to the series but there are 29 days to go. England bowled very well, fielded well and batted well. They bowled the right line and right length for the pitch whereas we bowled both sides of the wicket."

Marsh will speak to Trevor Hohns, the chairman of the selectors, with a view of bolstering the tour party. Jason Gillespie, who strained his left hamstring yesterday, is unlikely to bowl today, and Andy Bichel is struggling with a back injury. Paul Reiffel, who has had injury problems of his own in the past year, and Adam Dale, may soon receive a call.



Taylor: worried captain

EDGBASTON SCOREBOARD

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Butcher b Malcolm ... 7

MT G Elliott b Gough ... 6

G S Blewett c Hussain b Gough ... 7

(39min, 13 balls, 1 four)

(39min, 15 balls)

ME Waugh b Gough ... 5

(33min, 25 balls, 1 four)

SR Waugh c Stewart b Caddick ... 12

(31min, 20 balls, 3 fours)

MG Bevan c Ealham b Malcolm ... 8

(31min, 21 balls, 1 four)

JA Healy c Stewart b Caddick ... 0

(1min, 1 ball)

JN Gillespie bow b Caddick ... 4

(13min, 8 balls, 1 four)

SK Warne c Malcolm b Caddick ... 47

(63min, 46 balls, 8 fours)

MS Kasprowicz c Butcher b Caddick ... 17

(44min, 28 balls, 3 fours)

G D McGrath not out ... 1

(9min, 3 balls)

Extras (w 2, nb 2) ... 4

Total (31.5 overs, 150min) ... 118

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Taylor 3), 2-

15 (Blewett 0), 3-26 (Blewett 6), 4-28 (S

R Waugh 0), 5-48 (Blewell 8), 6-48

(Bevan 8), 7-48 (Gillespie 0), 8-54

(Warne 2)

9-110 (Warne 41)

BOWLING: Gough 10-1-43-3 into 3, w

2, 7 (40min, 8-1-16-3, 2-0-25-0); Malcolm

10-2-25-2 (3 fours, 4-1-9-1, 3-0-10-1, 3-

1-4-0); Caddick 11.5-1-50-5 (into 2, 9

fours, one spell)

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch:

52-8 (26 overs, 124min, Warne 31,

Kasprowicz 9)

ENGLAND: First Innings

MA Butcher c Healy b Kasprowicz 8

(15min, 13 balls, 2 fours)

*JA Atherton c Healy b McGrath ... 2

(15min, 13 balls, 1 four)

MA J Stewart c Elliott b Gillespie ... 18

(51min, 33 balls, 3 fours)

N Hussain not out ... 80

(21min, 152 balls, 13 fours)

G P Thorpe not out ... 83

(16min, 141 balls, 11 fours)

Extras (w 3, nb 1, nb 5) ... 9

Total (3 wickets, 58 overs, 231min) 200

J P Crawley, MA Ealham, RDB Croft, D

Gough, A R Caddick and D E Malcolm

to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8 (Butcher 4), 2-

16 (Stewart 4), 3-50 (Hussain 16)

BOWLING: McGrath 14-3-57-1 (into 3, 8

fours, 5-2-14-1, 2-0-13-0, 7-1-30-0);

Kasprowicz 15-3-38-1 (into 2, w 1, 4

fours, 7-0-24-1, 4-1-15-0, 4-2-2-0);

Gillespie 10-1-44-0 (into 1, 8 fours, 5-7-

22-1, 5-0-25-0); Warne 14-3-44-0 (7

fours, 3-1-12-0, 11-2-32-0); Bevan 2-0-

10-0 (2 fours, one spell); S R Waugh 1-

1-0-0

SCORING NOTES: Tea, 74-3 (19

overs, 85min, Hussain 23, Thorpe 18)

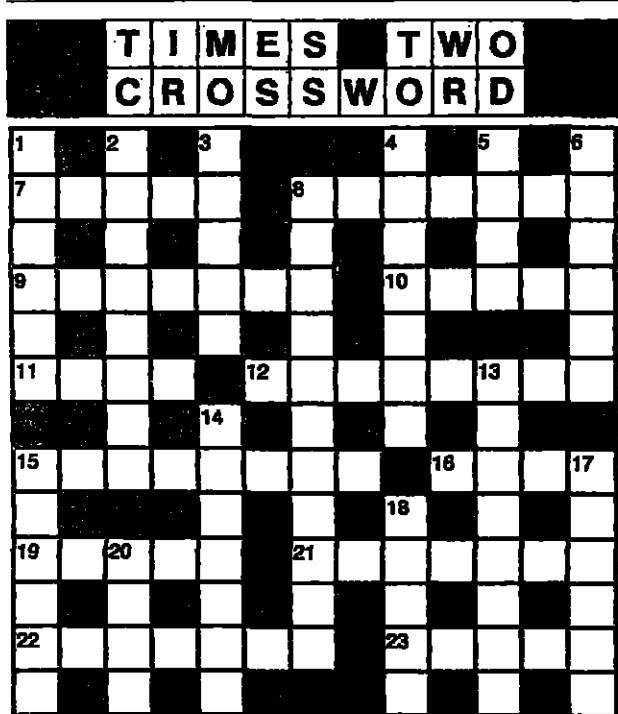
Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies)

and P Wiley Third umpire: J W Hucker

Match referee: R S Madugalle (Sri

Lanka)

Compiled by Bill Findall



No 1113

ACROSS

- 7 Brooch: hold tight (5)
- 8 Glazed porcelain (7)
- 9 Turning over: rich (7)
- 10 Artificial waterway (5)
- 11 Thread: story (4)
- 12 Get lighter: sounds like south coast resort (8)
- 15 Natural illumination (8)
- 16 Remove (eg hat) (4)
- 19 Loop of thread in lace (5)
- 21 1945 operation to supply 6 (7)
- 22 Reparation, remedy (7)
- 23 Fabric wrap (5)

DOWN

- 1 Lack-of-vitamin-C disease (6)
- 2 Witches' pot (8)
- 3 "Sweet" showers (Tusser) (5)
- 4 Chest-bone structure (7)
- 5 Soon: by unknown hand (4)
- 6 Irving —, songwriter (6)
- 8 Powerless leaders (11)
- 13 Of the equatorial zone (8)
- 14 Grand National racecourse (7)
- 15 Grand: excellent (6)
- 17 Condition, usu, fine (6)
- 18 Corn: anything useful to mill (5)
- 20 Secret writing system (4)

The solution to 1112 will be published Wednesday, June 11

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Tory troops are in worse state than feared

Party membership has fallen by almost half since 1992, a Times survey discloses. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky plots the downward course of Conservative associations

THE decline of the Conservative Party at the grass roots has been faster than even the most pessimistic observers have realised. This emerges from a survey for *The Times* of membership in 340 local constituency associations, one of the most comprehensive ever collected.

Total membership has plummeted in less than three years, since the last survey for *The Times*. The party has lost slightly under half its members since 1992 and is now down to at most 350,000 and 400,000. For the first time (except possibly for the political truce during the Second World War), Labour has a larger membership.

Tory membership was five times greater than Labour's when Mrs Thatcher won in 1979, and just a quarter of what was shown in an official survey in the early 1970s. Today's total is little more than a tenth of the record level of three million of 1953. Moreover, Tory members are predominantly elderly loyalists. A survey by Sheffield University in 1992 revealed that two thirds were aged 50 and over.

In ten of the strongest local associations, there has been an average drop of 41 per cent since 1992. Even successful parties such as Beaconsfield have seen a drop from more than 4,000 to 2,800; Saffron Walden from 5,434 to about 2,500; and Ryedale from 3,605 to 1,250. Even greater falls have occurred in marginal seats lost by the Tories on May 1. Membership in Stevenage dropped from 904 in 1993 to 323 in 1995-96; Harlow from 840 to 292; Bury North from 726 to 206; and Amber Valley from 350 to 130.

There are a few crumbs of comfort. Subscriptions have risen sharply as computerisation and direct-mail appeals have replaced door-to-door methods of collections. This may account for part of the fall in recorded membership. Previous recruitment methods led to exaggerated figures as inactive members or those giving token subscriptions were on previous party rolls.

However, the latest local statistics are still seen within the party as unrealistically high. Several agents point to the "porkies" told by colleagues in their annual membership returns to the national party (which barely half of the English and Welsh associations send to Central Office). Totals are padded via the

recycling of out-of-date figures (some of the "latest" totals provided by two different officials were for 1992-93). Former members who have not renewed subscriptions are retained on the party roster. Spouses are often counted as members even when only one subscription has been paid. Estimates from ward branches are accepted without checking.

Hundreds of members of Conservative clubs are included as individual members when these clubs are primarily social (for supporters of all parties). Club subscriptions have kept membership totals in some Labour heartlands (such as Bradford or Merthyr Tydfil) at artificially high levels. Associations that agree to provide figures tend to be better organised than those which do not. If the statistics collected for 340 associations are taken as accurate, membership nationally is now 400,000. This is probably an overestimate and 350,000 is probably more realistic.

There are huge geographical variations. At one extreme, there are the Tory bastions, albeit battered. Surrey Heath, Croydon, Beaconsfield and Kensington and Chelsea have local budgets of £115,000 to £202,000 each. There are only two dozen such parties, virtually all in London's stockbroker belt.

Only a handful of seats in the North — such as William Hague's Richmond — have solid support, although this is usually declining. In the

North, the East Midlands and in Scotland, the average membership in politically "strong" seats (those held by Tories in 1992 by a margin of more than 10 per cent) was 900. In the South and South West it was 1,470 in strong seats.

At the other extreme are virtually defunct associations, mostly in inner cities. Of those surveyed, a fifth had memberships of 100 or less. According to constituency figures — probably exaggerated — average membership in seats held by Labour in the last parliament was only 158.

The greatest damage has been in marginals held by the Tories in 1992. But the smaller base of voluntary supporters in key marginals has been compounded by the erosion of the party's local government base.

Nonetheless, some parties became adept at tapping medium-sized donations from local businessmen. But a preliminary analysis of 150 constituency budgets suggests a drop in average incomes of about a quarter. It is often hard to persuade rich associations to help marginals.

Several associations, mostly in the South, have large investments, usually in property. Aylesbury, whose portfolio probably exceeds £2 million, is the richest. Another asset-rich association is Hampstead and Highgate, a Labour seat since 1992. Such wealth can lessen the need and urge to recruit members.

Moreover, many Tory MPs



Stella Jinks outside the party's office in Little Lever: "Maybe, like John Major, I will take up my bat and go and watch the cricket"

Party's last outpost concentrates on keeping the enemy occupied

By Russell Jenkins

THE POOR RELATION

BOLTON SOUTH EAST is Conservative Central Office's most sickly outpost with membership of the local association in almost terminal decline: its few remaining stalwarts jaded, dispirited and despairing of any prospect of political rejuvenation.

Conservatives holed up in Little Lever, an oasis of threadbare gentility in the middle of urban sprawl south of Bolton washed red by Labour in the election, are a beleaguered and dwindling band. They are not so much diehard as dying out.

Stella Jinks, election agent, office clerk, fund raiser and general dog's body, runs the association from a cramped office above Little Lever Conservative Club, in the shadow of the local Kwik Save supermarket. She remains stoically realistic but is preparing to step down from her unsalaried and unsung position.

So poverty-stricken that she has never been able to afford to attend a Conservative Party conference, she complains that the association is a "poor relation" to the rich counterparts in the South East. Her

office has never had a fax machine, let alone e-mail. It shares a telephone and, during the campaign, the tiny desk groaned under the weight of costly but unsolicited literature sent from Smith Square that could not be pushed through letter boxes simply because there were no volunteers to do so.

Bolton South East is typical of dozens of small Conservative Associations in Labour territory where, even in the good times, there is no prospect of returning a Conservative member. Now, in the bad times, it has lost its seats on Bolton council and official membership has dwindled to six or seven.

One of those is Mrs Jinks's husband who explained cheerfully on the doorstep of his terrace cottage that he does not get involved. The age profile is old and getting older. Mrs Jinks jokes that she is introduced as one of the young ones — she will be 50 at the turn of the century.

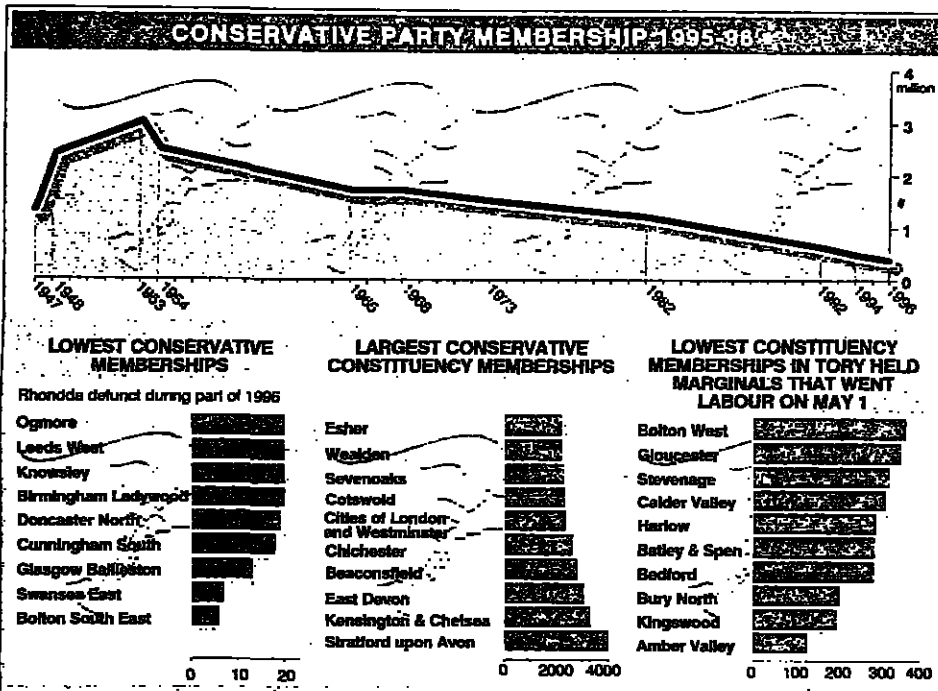
For some years Christine Churchman and Dorothy Dziubas represented the

Conservative cause for Little Lever on the Labour-run Bolton council. Peter and Christine Churchman are still active in the party. For some time their grandest political aim has merely been to keep the "enemy", local Labour Party, occupied so that they cannot concentrate their troops on surrounding marginals.

Mrs Jinks sometimes wonders what Lady Thatcher would make of the Conservative Clubs in her constituency, where women are not allowed to stand at the bar or play snooker. Hit them with her handbag, she thinks. She would be even more horrified at the way Mrs Jinks gets by on a shared telephone, ancient PC and has to count the pennies for every postage stamp.

"At the moment I am waiting for somebody to take the baton from me," she says. "But it is a lot like the British Olympic relay team. Everybody is going around asking do you know anybody to replace her? I think they are hoping I'll change my mind."

"It may be a case of this lady is not for turning and, like John Major, I will take up my bat and go and watch the cricket."



Strong organisation bolstered by agent's professionalism

By James Landale, Political Reporter



James Cobley, agent in Devon East, which has 3,000 members

DEVON EAST is one of the Tories' few remaining bastions in the South West. Sir Peter Emery retained the seat by a majority of 7,489 on May 1. The local party boasts a membership estimated in our survey to be just over 3,000, but reckoned locally to be almost 3,500, in the top ten for the country.

Yet the Tories' success is not based simply on the large number of people, largely Tory-supporting, who have retired here and make up 45 per cent of the population. It is as much due to the industry and professionalism of one man.

At 61, James Cobley is the doyen of Tory agents. Apart from a brief stint with the RAF, he has worked for the party since leaving school at 16, qualifying as an agent in 1959. He moved to Honiton, as the seat was then known, to get Sir Peter safely installed at a 1967 by-election.

Every morning at 7.30am, Mr Cobley arrives at the party's headquarters. Sitting at his Dell computer, he demonstrates extraordinary computer literacy. At his fingertips he has a database of every voter, party member and activist in the constituency. Under the Data Protection Act, the computer can tell him how people said they voted in elections. Each

SUCCESS STORY

Tory supporter is coded to say whether they are prepared to put a poster in their window, deliver leaflets, canvass on the doorsteps or by telephone, help with lifts to polling stations, or simply help with sending out envelopes.

With desk-top publishing software, he can also print invitations, flyers and leaflets with minimal cost. For larger posters, he has his own professional offset printing machine upstairs.

With two telephone lines, a fax line, and a modern telephone link, Mr Cobley is also on the Internet and e-mail system, giving him direct access to Central Office and other Tory offices.

Voters are targeted constantly, especially those whom he calls opinion-formers, such as vets, doctors, parish council chairmen and members of the Women's Institute. With the help of two part-time secretaries, letters and phone call inquiries are followed up by return.

Mr Cobley heads out to a party event almost every night of the week, such as bingo nights, barbecues and advice bureaux. He also attends party branch meetings. The key, Mr Cobley says, is to keep party workers and supporters involved.

Party machine needs overhauling

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Tory organisation and membership base are in need of a massive overhaul. On that, John Major and the five candidates for his job all agree. The exclusive analysis for *The Times* by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, the most extensive so far, shows just how acute the erosion is.

For the first time ever, Tory membership is now lower than Labour's. Over the past five years, the Tory total has dropped by well over two fifths to between 350,000 and 400,000, while the Labour figure has risen by two thirds to 420,000. Moreover, many Tory insiders reckon the real total could be much lower, possibly not much more than half the Labour figure.

In the inner cities, the Tory party has virtually ceased to exist. In the Welsh valleys, Glasgow and the big cities of the Midlands and the North, there are a mere handful of members, and most are elderly. As serious is that membership is now down to the low hundreds in marginals which the Tories held up to five weeks ago.

All parties tend to lose membership when they are in office — and this is usually linked to a sharp decline in the number of local councillors. But the current Tory position is much worse than the party has ever experienced before.

The conventional wisdom

is that the party needs to boost membership to regain ground not just in key marginals but also in what have become Labour strongholds. That is linked to the party's generational problem with an ageing membership and the decimation of its youth movement.

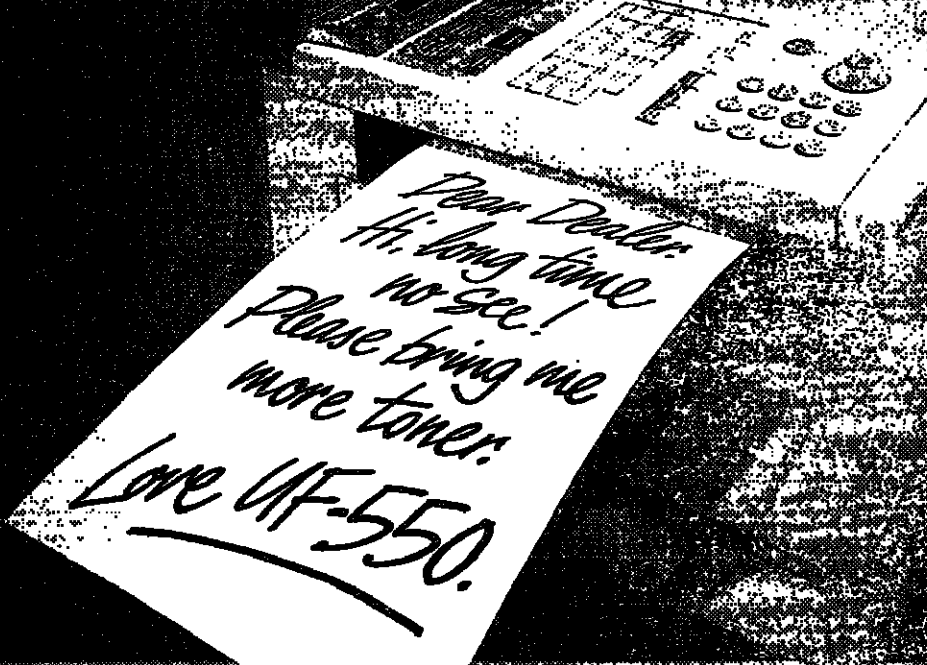
It is argument is linked to the case for broadening the franchise for future leadership elections to include ordinary party members as well as MPs. This would involve the creation of a national membership scheme, as opposed to the current local basis of recruitment, as Labour has success-

fully introduced during the 1990s.

The counter-view, aired by Matthew Parris today (page 22), is that the role of organisation is much exaggerated, overpraised when the Tories do well and blamed too much when they do badly. While organisation was probably of little importance when the tides are as strong as they were on May 1, a strong organisation, backed by a growing membership, is crucial in rebuilding a local presence and winning council elections. Gaining new members will also help broaden the base of funding. It may be just one factor in the Tory recovery, but it is a necessary pre-condition.

PETER RIDDELL

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Killer forced popular teacher to reveal cashpoint number

Tycoon's son 'was tortured to death'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

DETECTIVES believe that the murdered son of Gerald Levin, head of Time Warner, was almost certainly tortured with a steak knife by his killer until he disclosed the pin number of his cashpoint card.

Jonathan Levin, 31, a school-teacher, was found lying in a pool of blood on Monday night at his flat in New York's Upper West side. His body, bound in tape, bore deep gashes and a single gunshot had been fired into the right side of his head.

The police believe that Mr Levin died between 3.45pm and 5pm on Friday. He was last seen alive that afternoon, walking his puppy, Julius, an alsatian.

Because there was no sign of a forced entry at his flat, the police are studying whether he met someone on the street whom he knew, possibly one of his pupils at the William H. Taft High School in the



Levin: found murdered in his New York flat

Bronx. The police said that the killer stole Mr Levin's cashpoint card, walked three blocks to a branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank at the intersection of 72nd Street and Columbus Avenue and withdrew \$800 (£490).

Bank computer records seem to confirm that the withdrawal was made after the most likely time of death. The cashpoint machine is

under video surveillance and the film is expected to give the police a substantial lead.

Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, said yesterday: "This is a case that is going to be solved, hopefully very quickly."

The police seem to have ruled out the possibility that Mr Levin was the victim of a homosexual serial killer. Initially, the FBI had seen "vague similarities" between the manner of his death and that of four other men, killed last month by a suspected murderer called Andrew Cunanan, a former male prostitute who is on the run from the police.

There were scenes of grief at Mr Levin's funeral on Tuesday. Mourners, who included nearly 300 pupils from his high school, wept as Lee Levin, his older brother, said: "Jon's my little brother, but for a number of years I've looked up to him like he was my big brother."

The murdered schoolteacher was the son of one of



A police officer checks a window at the flats where Jonathan Levin was found dead

America's business titans. Yet his lifestyle was as modest as his job in the Bronx. Friends say that Mr Levin never wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, Matthew Dwyer, a fellow teacher, said: "He was very close to his dad,

but he wanted to have his own career, to make his own life. And he did that by helping children."

His death has hit the school like a sledgehammer. A gifted, popular teacher, he was known to make time for pupils

who were academically weak and socially deprived.

The esteem in which he was held by those he had taught could be seen at his funeral. One girl carried a banner which read "We were his children".

Global trashing warms liberal New Yorkers

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

NEW YORK'S liberals, world champions at breast-beating, have a treat in store for them this weekend when *The New York Times* brings out its Sunday magazine: a special issue on how the world sees America.

The answer, for those who cannot wait, is simple: "the world" appears not to like America much.

The magazine, filled with dense and deadly text, is the liberal American's dream. From Marina Warner, Gina Lollobrigida and Thomas Kenally, Australian author of *Schindler's Ark*, to the Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, writers queue up to trash Uncle Sam. "Progressive" types here, for whom self-flagellation is a cherished hobby, will take to this as cats to creamy milk.

After an opening salvo on America's "cultural imperialism" by Michiko Kakutani, the chief book reviewer of *The New York Times*, Britain's Ms Warner sets the tone of things to come in an essay called "Bleated".

In it, the feminist author of *Six Myths of Our Times* writes that "bigness still defines America, but a bigness grown plummy and flaccid and fluffy and fat like baby flesh". She adduces no evidence for this, of course, just as she fails to for her other thesis, that the United States is suffering from "late 90s infantilism".

Nadine Gordimer, the dowager duchess of white South African liberals, bowls a juicy full-toss to America's white "self-hatred" lobby. In a piece called "Separate", she asserts that "American blacks want to stay segregated, and who can blame them?"

Ms Gordimer writes: "When you have been so long rejected, your collective consciousness tells you that the open door... has come too late. You gain your self-respect by saying no."

Signora Lollobrigida, the Italian sex symbol from another age, also weighs into

America, attacking its women for their looks: "American women are always obsessed with the dieting and the plastic surgery, but the more they try to go backward and look younger the more the result is the opposite. They end up looking ridiculous."

Vitriol is also administered by Julie Burchill. After making the none-too-startling assertion that American men have sex on the brain, she declares that "no country outside of the Muslim world fears loathes and oppresses women as much as the USA".

Mayra Montero, the Cuban novelist, avers that "a country composed of promiscuous Parisians was never going to be at ease with itself".

There is more. The Nigerian novelist Wole Soyinka, whose right to write freely in his own country has been backed most strongly by America, goes on, nonetheless, to describe Americans as "rude".

Peter Schneider, a writer from Berlin, chides Americans for their too-perfect teeth; and Oliviero Toscani, the chief creative director for the Benetton group, growls that he has "never met anyone so idiotic as an American ad man".

So America's liberal angst will blossom, well watered by these writers from abroad. "Oh woe," people will say this Sunday. "No one likes us and it's all our own fault."



Lollobrigida: women in US obsessed with diet

24 years in jail for CIA double agent

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA double agent Harold Nicholson was sentenced yesterday to nearly 24 years in prison and a \$250,000 (£155,000) fine for selling documents to the Russians.

Nicholson, 46, the highest-ranking CIA officer ever caught spying, told the court in Alexandria, Virginia, that he had betrayed the United

States to get money for his children. But he added that through his actions "I have lost everything that was ever dear and important to me, everything that was ever of value".

Nicholson, 46, who had worked for the CIA for 20 years, was arrested at Washington's Dulles International Airport in November on his way to a meeting with Russian agents in Switzerland.

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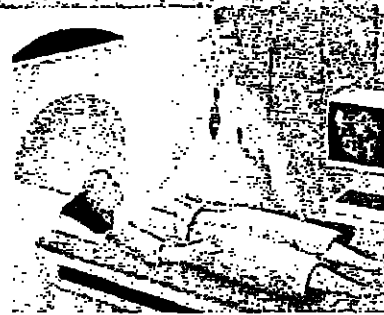
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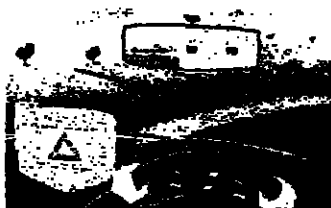
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US defence chief draws line against more sex inquests

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WILLIAM COHEN, the American Defence Secretary, yesterday sought to bring an end to months of embarrassment at the Pentagon by supporting the appointment of an adulterous air force general as the next head of America's armed services.

After numerous military scandals, Mr Cohen said he was drawing a line against the "frenzy" of alleged sexual misconduct, and stated that an adulterous air force general would not disqualify General Joseph Ralston as the leading candidate to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He said the transgression was overshadowed by the general's distinguished 32-year record and said he was prepared to forgive what is an offence under military law because it involved a civilian and did not threaten morale or discipline.

Acceptance of the incident, in which General Ralston had a year-long relationship with a CIA intelligence officer while estranged from his wife, is certain to provoke protest from others dismissed for similar "crimes" and is likely to bring further humiliation to the Pentagon.

Last month Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, the first female B2 pilot in America, was discharged from the Air Force for adultery as a compromise to avoid the soap opera of her scheduled court martial.

The Navy last week relieved a two-star admiral of his duties over claims he had made sexual overtures to a subordinate, while the Army stripped a one-star general of his command because of an improper relationship with a civilian nurse.

This week Major-General John Longhouser, the commanding officer at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the training camp at which dozens of recruits have alleged sexual abuse by their instructors, resigned after the disclosure of an adulterous affair with a civilian.

Mr Cohen attempted to distinguish between the cases. General Longhouser, he said, had been involved with a woman who was an army civilian employee. And as commander of the training establishment he faced investigations while ruling on the cases of other soldiers accused of sexual misconduct.

"I understand this puts me in a difficult position," Mr Cohen said of his decision to support General Ralston, 53, a highly decorated Vietnam War combat pilot and deputy to General John Shalikashvili, who steps down in September.

"This is a drawing of a line. This is a case where I think the rule of reason has to apply and

that we must draw distinctions where there are some human errors that occur and weigh them against individual performance."

During his interview for the post, General Ralston had admitted that as a colonel estranged from his wife he had the affair with the CIA civilian while the two were students at the National War College in the 1980s. Although briefly reconciled with his wife, the couple later divorced. He is now remarried with four children.

General Ralston, who was said by Pentagon officials to have not considered the affair to have been an issue for his candidacy, clearly surprised Clinton aides with the revelation and left the White House more guarded in its response yesterday. "He is an outstanding soldier who has outstanding qualifications for the job," said Anne Luzzatto, a White House spokeswoman. "He remains a candidate. The recommendation has yet to be made and the President will make his decision."

Mr Clinton, personally facing a public sexual harassment suit from Paula Jones, is certain to assess any political reaction to the latest disclosure before making a decision within the next two weeks.

Until yesterday Mr Cohen and senior Pentagon officials had taken steadfast positions on adultery cases, arguing that military standards were based not merely on a set of unique laws but on the expectation of a higher moral code for the men and women who command the armed services.

Before the disclosure, the appointment of General Ralston had been viewed as a certainty.

Soldiers patrol as Algerians cast votes

FROM PETER SHAW-SMITH IN ALGIERS

VOTING was slow and the situation calm in the capital's main trouble spots, Bab el Oued and the Casbah, yesterday morning as Algerians embarked on the first general election since a December 1991 poll which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was on course to win before the army cancelled the process.

There was an increased police and army presence, with the upper entrance to the Casbah controlled by soldiers. Journalists were accompanied by security men, who allowed them to talk to voters freely, though few were willing to say who they were voting for.

President Zeroual voted early at a polling station in the El Mouradia quarter in the city centre, saying the elections were "a victory of the people and of democracy in Algeria". Final results are expected this afternoon.

Voting is for a total of 380 seats in the Popular National Assembly. The country comprises 48 wilayas or provinces, of vastly different geographical size and make-up. Algiers is the largest with 24 seats, followed by Oran (14) and Tizi Ouzou (14), the seat of the Berber community. Adrar, in the Sahara desert, is the biggest province in the country but has only four seats.

Forty parties are standing, as well as 52 independent candidates, but many represent only local interests. Tipaza, 25 miles east of the capital, has the most with 22, while Algiers has 16.

As these elections are only for deputies in the lower chamber, Algeria must wait about four months until the composition of the upper chamber — one third of which will be appointed by Mr Zeroual — becomes known.



Ultra-Orthodox Jews offering prayers in Jerusalem yesterday for an end to the removal of bones from ancient Jewish graves dug up by Israeli archaeologists

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rubbish piles up in Athens

Athens: Tourists arriving in Athens on World Environment Day were greeted by the pungent smell of thousands of tonnes of rotting rubbish as a strike by dustmen entered its fourth day (Philip Pangalos writes).

Rubbish from overflowing bins is strewn across the streets while temperatures have climbed well into the thirties.

Dimitris Avramopoulos, the Mayor of Athens, has demanded an immediate end to the strike, and the striking workers have been told that their protest would be declared illegal.

Bikers bombed

Oslo: Three explosions demolished a clubhouse in Drammen belonging to the Bandidos, a Norwegian motorcycle gang, killing a woman bystander and injuring four other people. (Reuters)

Fishing protest

Lisbon: The crews of Portuguese trawlers blockaded the port and picketed the docks here, the country's largest, to protest against a partial government ban on weekend fishing. (Reuters)

Rivals clash

Brazzaville: Congolese troops loyal to President Pascal Lissouba were reported to be battling with militia forces of Denis Sassou Nguesso, the former head of state, in the capital. (AFP)

Dissident freed

Shanghai: Bao Ge, a Shanghai dissident held for three years without trial, was freed from a Chinese labour camp on the eighth anniversary of the crushing of the Tiananmen Square protests. (Reuters)

Coup defiance

Freetown: Sierra Leone coup leaders have told Nigeria they will not restore the ousted Government of President Kabbah because that would jeopardise peace between the army and rebels. (Reuters)

Hong Kong job

Hong Kong: Ma Yuzhen, 62, China's Ambassador in London in 1991-95, has been named as Beijing's top civilian official here — Foreign Ministry Commissioner — after the handover of the colony.

Hippo teeth haul

Paris: French customs at Orly airport have seized more than 1,700 hippopotamus teeth — en route from Uganda to Hong Kong — from smugglers diversifying away from elephant tusks. (Reuters)

Seoul ships open fire on northern boats

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

NAVY ships of the two Koreas exchanged fire yesterday after vessels from the North were intercepted in the South's waters, defence officials said in Seoul.

The confrontation, underscoring the state-of-war tensions in the divided peninsula, came after an intrusion by a North Korean navy patrol vessel and nine fishing boats.

The northern ship fired three mortar rounds at South Korean navy vessels, which responded with a warning salvo. None of the ships was hit in the exchange of fire. After a tense stand-off lasting

nearly an hour, the northern vessels withdrew from South Korean waters, officials said.

The clash, which occurred off the west coast, followed a similar intrusion a week ago. A North Korean navy ship was intercepted on the southern side of the demarcation line, but no shots were fired. The line, which bisects the Korean peninsula, extends into coastal waters.

□ **Bribery charge:** State prosecutors in Seoul indicted Kim Hyun Chul, a son of President Kim Young Sam, on charges of tax evasion and accepting a \$2.2 million bribe.

Mountain find sparks gold fever in Egypt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

GOLD fever hit Egypt yesterday after official confirmation of the surprise discovery of huge deposits in an inhospitable and remote range of hills on the border with Libya.

"There is no other discovery like this in Egypt. In fact, it could be considered a rare discovery on the world level," Gaber Naeim, chairman of the Geological Survey of Egypt, told the semi-official Cairo daily al-Akhbar.

The gold is in Jabal Kamel, a rocky outcrop close to the point where the borders of Egypt, Libya and Sudan meet. According to Mr Naeim, its quantity dwarfs all other gold deposits found in the country

of 60 million people, the most populous in the Arab world.

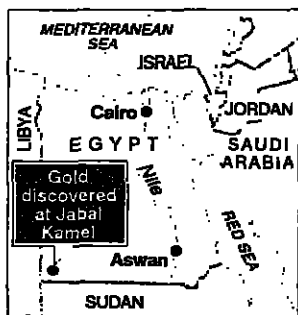
After the controversy surrounding recent exaggerated reports of gold finds in Indonesia, diplomatic and industry sources remained wary of assessing the significance of the Egyptian discovery until more precise data were made available by the Cairo Government. "It is too early to say what effect, if any, this will have on the world market," one diplomat said.

Even before the discovery put Egypt's economic prospects into a new light, one foreign company, Pharaoh Gold Mines of Australia, was prospecting for gold in the Eastern Desert and planned to start production there in the

middle of this year. Six other companies were negotiating for concessions to prospect for gold, either in the Eastern Desert or in southern Sinai, territory recovered from Israel under the 1979 peace treaty.

The riches buried deep under Jabal Kamel came to light after the survey sent geologists to the area to look for iron-ore deposits. They were taken aback to find that there was more gold than iron in the rock.

"The idea was that the gold could cover part of the large costs of exploiting the iron ore and transporting it out of this remote area. But it later became clear that the gold was fundamental and the iron was subsidiary," Mr Naeim said.



ore itself is also extremely high."

The newly found deposits are in a range of hills seven to eight miles long and six miles across. The seams are between 13ft and 250ft thick. "Under the surface of the Earth, there is another deposit, the size of which is not yet known," Mr Naeim said. The extent of the unexpected discovery in the mountains sparked interest throughout the Middle East, with experts anxious to obtain more detailed figures.

Mr Naeim said that some of the gold was inside Libya and that Egypt had signed a deal with the Libyan authorities specifying there should be joint exploitation of the deposits on the border.

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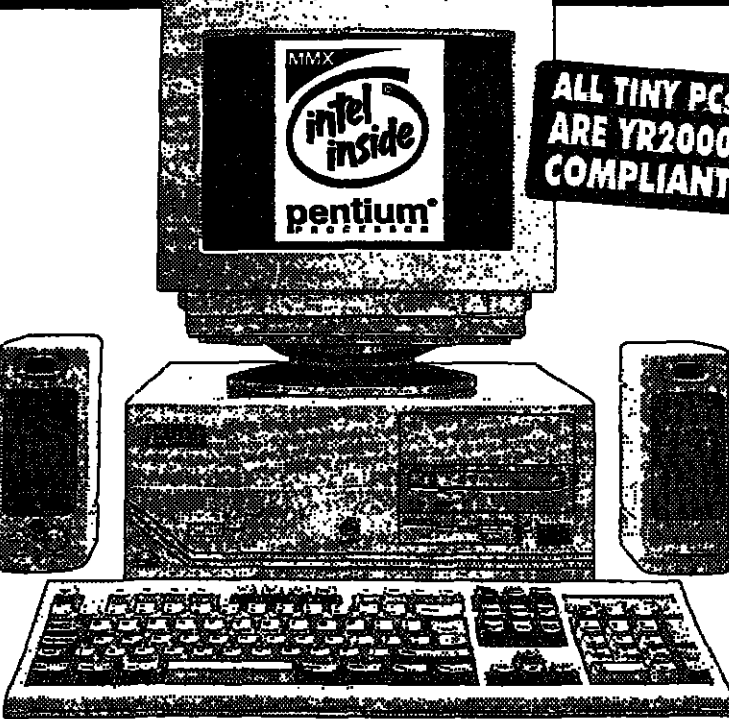
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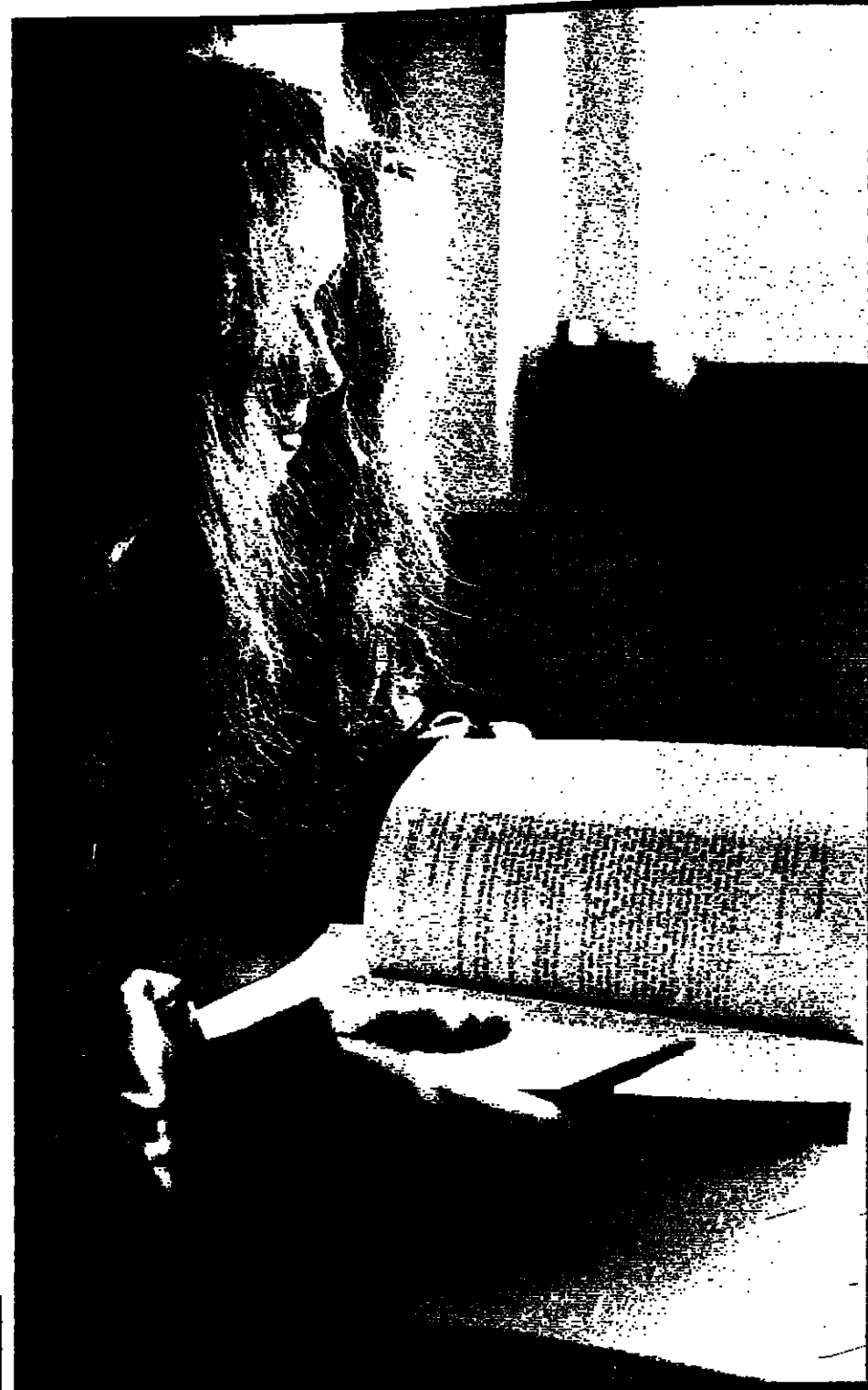
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Surviving family exam fever



GCSE course work and modules have meant that it is no longer possible to pass exams on the basis of last-minute revision



Pupils are so worried about results that they have become revision recluses

Children today are under greater academic pressure than ever before. Has the drive for success gone too far? Jane Gordon investigates

The pills were lying on her desk partly obscured by a pile of notes and several reference books. My initial fear was that my 16-year-old daughter might be taking drugs — amphetamines, Ecstasy, or some other frightening and potentially addictive substance. But when I picked up the little phial of tablets and discovered that they were Pro-Plus — a caffeine-based product which can be bought over the counter at any chemist — I experienced a different kind of anxiety.

Because the bottle of pills that I had found were not designed to take her out of her head — as they might have been for my own generation some 20 years ago — they were stimulants she was using to keep herself mentally alert during a punishing revision regime for the first-year A-level modules she is taking next week.

And while, of course, I should be grateful that the only thing my daughter is currently addicted to is hard work, I must admit to a growing disquiet at the extraordinary academic pressures being placed on her generation.

Far from being the slackers portrayed by the media, my daughter and her peers are, I believe, expected to work far harder than their parents ever did. The changes in the education system that have taken place since O levels became GCSEs have not made their lives easier. On the contrary, the advent of course work and modules has meant that it is no longer possible, as I was in my day, to pass exams with a little last-minute revision.

I am not the only parent experiencing doubt about the way in which children are being programmed to achieve. Conversations at the school gates are now punctuated by tales of pupils so stressed by their exams that they have become revision recluses.

Last week a friend rang me in a panic to tell me that her daughter had become so obsessed with doing well in her end-of-year exams that she had recorded revision tapes which she left playing on an auto-reverse tape recorder throughout the night.

It's hardly surprising, really, that my daughter and the rest of her generation are so anxious about their exams. They were virtually weaned on talk of education. Their names were entered at birth onto the waiting lists of all the best schools. Before they could walk they had been enrolled in a series of programmes designed to maximise their learning potential. By the time they were three years old, most of my daughters' friends were attending Montessori schools, and at four, they were in full-time formal education. Little wonder that as they reach

their GCSEs, many of them are spending as much as 14 hours a day studying.

"My son's revision timetable has dominated our family life for the past three months. He has no time for anything but work, and he has even reached the stage where he rationed the amount of football he watches. This week he refused to allow himself the time to watch the England-Italy match," says Nicky Rees, whose son, Justin, is taking 11 GCSEs this summer.

Justin is probably suffering from a particularly high level of pressure because he is a pupil at St Paul's School, in southwest London, one of the country's top five schools. "The masters are really good in that they don't say 'you have got to get an A* in this subject'. They simply tell us to do our best. But I know that at St Paul's, our best is an A*, and that anything other than an A is regarded as failure. And we

string of GCSEs and excellent A levels — it took her months to find a menial job," she says.

One of the major factors behind the boom in education — in the past five years, the number of students going on to university has gone from one in eight to one in three — is employment. The perceived belief that it is not possible to get a job on the checkout at Sainsbury without an Oxbridge double first has fuelled the relentless race for qualifications.

It has to be said, though, that much of the pressure put on children has come not from the academic establishment, but from parents. Louise Wall, head teacher at the Falcons, West London, believes that often it is the parents who set the agenda for their children. "I think it is linked to the fact that nowadays people are delaying having children.

"They plan when they will have a family. They don't want to have children until they have the right house, the right car and so on. Just as they want the best for themselves, so they want the best for their children. I have had prospective parents in my office telling me that their child is going to Colet Court, St Paul's, and St John's College, Oxford, before that child has even learnt to walk or talk," she says.

Sheila Allsop — the mother of 16-year-old Katy, who is in the middle of sitting her GCSEs — concedes that she is very nearly as anxious about the exams as her daughter.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this competitive feeling is as common among the parents as it is among my daughter's peers. I feel that it is particularly important for Katy to do well because she attends a state school in an area in which the vast majority of middle-class parents have opted for private education. I try very hard to play that down, but I cannot deny that I am as agitated right now as Katy is," she says.

So how can we defuse the pressure our children are experiencing?

Jean Scott, Headmistress of South Hampstead High School, London, believes that parents should play down the importance of their children's exams, and try not to talk about their education in front of them. "Reassure them that exams are not the be-all and end-all of life. Remind them that they should be having fun at this stage of their lives. It does worry me that there is so little fun in education any more," she says.

The trouble is that for many parents it may be too late. We might have bred a generation of education junkies — or in my daughter's case, a student with a Pro-Plus dependency — and we could find that the learning habit is as difficult to lose as any other addiction.

There is a need to reassure children that exams are not the be-all and end-all of life

are all aware that there is this expectation that we should do as well if not better than the boys did last year," Justin says.

Marsha Elms, Head Teacher at Kendrick Girls' School in Reading, Berkshire, the highest-placed state school in last year's league tables — acknowledges the pressure that is placed on this year's pupils after the success of the 1996 GCSE students. "There is this belief every year that the girls must do better, which can result in girls who don't achieve a full flight of A's, believing that they are failures," she says.

"I think it is very difficult for parents to understand what it is like to be young in 1997, with all the pressure that they receive. Young people today are under greater academic stress than any previous generation."

Nicky Rees is only too aware of the difference between her own achievements and aspirations in the 1970s and those of her daughter Fiona in the 1990s.

"When I left school, I felt that I had been reasonably well educated. I had just three O levels, and I simply looked in the *Evening Standard* and took my pick from hundreds of jobs. When my daughter was looking for a job in her gap year before university, with a

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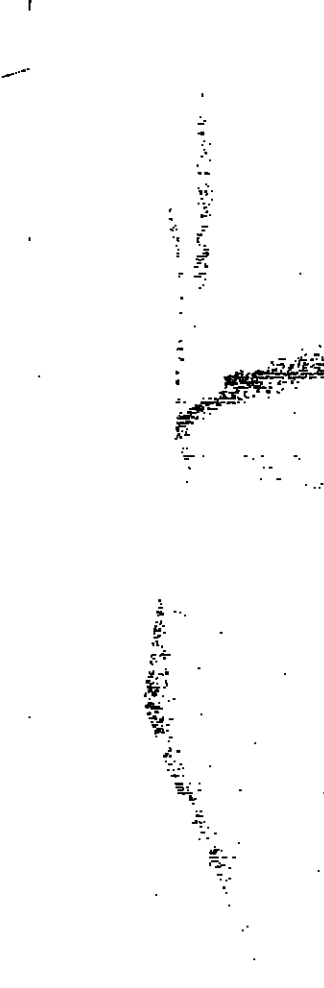
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Peter Lilley: "Being a leadership candidate is very different from being a minister in a beleaguered Government"

Peter Lilley has become a changed man since the start of the Tory leadership campaign. Interview by Valerie Grove. Photograph by Chris Harris

You're never going to be a Ken Clarke bloke, are you?" I ask Peter Lilley over breakfast. "I'm not blokeish, I may be affable," Lilley says affably, adding: "Actually I'm probably more blokeish politically, but less blokeish socially than Ken. My political instincts are much more in tune with The Bloke, in terms of a Eurosceptic approach."

But Mr Lilley keeps his intellectually sharp and amusing side private. For a moment after the election, I thought he had had a demeanour transplant when he appeared on *Question Time*. He was no longer hesitant; one sensed the shedding of the carapace of office. "I did feel different," he says. "People tell me I've sparkled since this campaign began. Being overtly a candidate for the leadership is very different from being a minister in a beleaguered Government, trying not to rock the boat." Meanwhile, Ken Clarke, oozing easy amusement and bonhomie, had no need to change his demeanour or even his shoes. Clarke is, as Lord Blake says, approvingly, "a tough, a thug and a bruiser."

The boyish, brainy Mr Lilley is none of these things, but he has been quietly intending to stand for the leadership ever since the Redwood challenge to John Major. He says it dawned on him even before the last election how vulnerable the Tories had become, with a thoroughly dislikeable picture of themselves implanted in the public mind. Writing in *The Spectator* last week, he admitted: "We assumed it didn't matter, because they still feared Labour more than they disliked us. Once Labour made itself less feared, it mattered a lot that we were disliked."

Candidacy cushions him from the familiar ex-ministerial pathos: the loss of perks. A chauffeured car still waits for him at the door, courtesy of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who also provided the private plane in which he, Gillian Shephard and Archer toured the land last week, addressing the disenfranchised Tory activists.

Archer's routine at these meetings is to tell them how he was involved in Margaret Thatcher's selection, then in John Major's, now Lilley's — whereupon Lilley draws attention to the fact that Jeffrey Archer has always backed the winner.

One can only admire these shell-shocked Tories — chastened, rueful, traumatised like the survivors of an air disaster — mustering the zest needed to contest the leadership, hoping to revive the popularity of a diminished, divided, jaded party. This week the Saatchis produced, for *The Guardian*, a spoof Lilley poster with pictures of all the disgraced Tories, and the words "Why you should vote for a man you've never heard of?" Lilley guffawed with laughter at this. He enjoys

jokes about his own obscurity. But, he added, on the boat from Dieppe the other day (he nipped over to their farmhouse in France for his 18th wedding anniversary) old ladies and inebriated youths had begun to recognise him.

I told him he should flaunt his vivacious wife, Gail. He said he had flouted her the night before, at a party Archer threw in his famous penthouse for 30 still undeclared Tory MPs. The childless Lilleys have two other homes: one in the constituency, one in a less fashionable area of Islington than the Blairs'. Normandy is where Gail paints her rustic portraits, rabbits and still lifes. Not at all the Christine Hamilton type, she thinks her husband is mad to go for the leadership, "though she is prepared to loan me out in the national interest. After all, she was involved in politics before meeting me."

Gail Ansell was a Haringey councillor at the time of the 1975 referendum when she recruited Lilley for the Keep Britain in Europe movement. "I was a bit sceptical even then, but I'd been told she was very pretty and when she rang I thought I'd better go." If wives were wheeled out in a Mrs Personality contest, Mrs Lilley would outshine most. But are we to play this presidential game? None of the Tory contenders could match the Happy Family Moving Into No 10 show staged by the Blairs on May 2. A hard act to follow, I suggest.

"Moods change," Lilley says equably. "People like the novelty, and the media seem quite mesmerised, not just by the newness of it all, but by the sense of control imposed on them. It astonishes me: even anti-Labour journalists don't seem to resent the fact that they're really got to toe the line now. But all that will change, over a period."

He thinks people will begin to resent a Prime Minister who takes a ceremonial role, modelled on the American President, and treats Parliament as a poodle on a very short leash.

There is an inherent bossiness in this Government. Having promised not to raise taxes, all they can do is boss people round by laws and regulations, mulling down the agenda of political correctness to the pernickiness of things like bells on bicycles. Governments need to have a mental bias against legislation."

On *Newsnight* this week, confronting Lilley over the referendum guillotine, it was Peter Mandelson's turn to make the crestfallen Lilley almost cry. He still lacks bombast and oomph. When I last spoke to him in 1993, about welfare benefit dependency, I would use exasperated words like *fecklessness* and *stupidity* — how had we come to allow people to produce children, without even considering how they might feed and clothe them?

— while he seemed to tread on eggshells. One longed for him to thump a table.

Why did it take the Tories so long to get round to shaking out the dependency culture? "Well, I came along and did something about it." True, but the Labour Government is reaping the rewards. It will be Frank Field who will get to grips with the housing benefit scam. Lilley, being decent, declares a warm regard for Field. "He was supportive in Opposition where initially Labour were not, until they realised that their own supporters were rather keen on doing something about benefit fraud too."

Nor has Lilley the naked ambition that gleams in the eye of Howard and Hague. The young pretender was once Lilley's junior minister (people often said how alike they were, except that Hague looked by far the older) and it was Lilley who recommended Hague to John Major for a Cabinet post.

Lilley was a quiet, self-contained child, the son of a BBC personnel manager, in Hayes, a Kentish village outside Bromley, birthplace of Pin the Younger. "Every day I'd pass the plaque saying he was Prime Minister at 24. So ever since 24 I feel really time is flying." He will be 54 in August.

He won a scholarship to Dulwich College but at Cambridge, unlike the rest of the Cambridge mafia at the time — Howard, Gummer, Clarke — he was too shy to debate at the Union. "Scientists like me had to work, unlike those doing PPE. And my background was not one of indulging in public speaking, though it fascinated me. I sat and watched and tried to learn it by osmosis. I always had the rather arrogant feeling that I could do it better, but I didn't know how you started."

Yet he claims now to thrive on debate and to long to lean on that dispatch box: "The bit of Parliament I like best is questions and wind-up speeches, much less formal and prepared, late at night when the House is in a lively mood."

This week he should have been in Montreux speaking on "Society — Quo Vadis?" *Mindful of Mrs Thatcher's* crucial absence in Paris during the challenge to her leadership, he had himself filmed instead. Yesterday he was making a speech about the new Government still behaving like an Oppositionist, dealing in rhetoric, soundbites and photo opportunities.

As the week has progressed the odds have shortened in his favour and it looks now like a three-horse race. He pins his hopes on becoming either the Right's Anyone But Clarke candidate in the second ballot, or the Clarke faction's second, unifying choice. "Our numbers show me doing fantastically well," he told me yesterday. But it still beats me why he wants to be there at all.

Leading article, page 25

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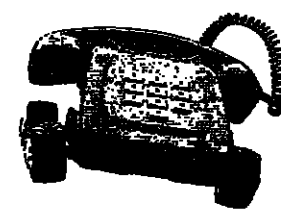
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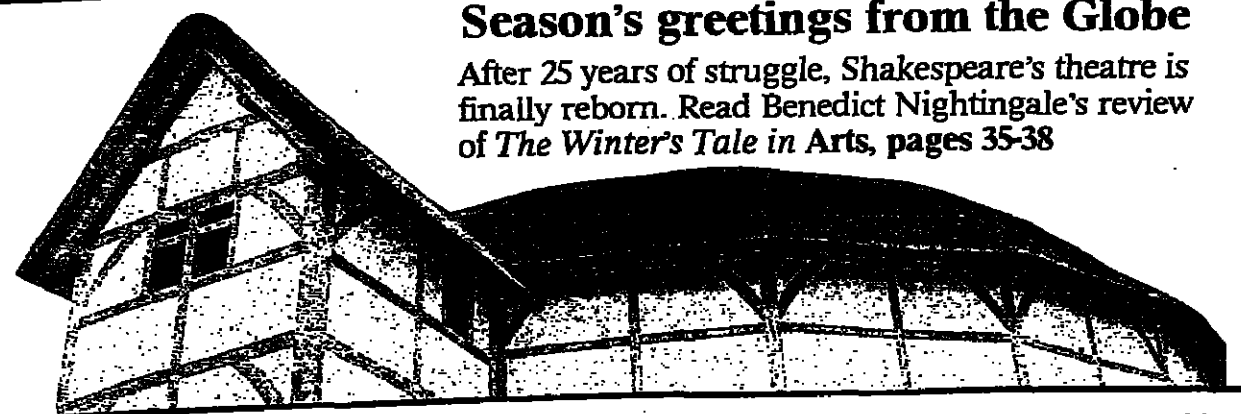


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Season's greetings from the Globe

After 25 years of struggle, Shakespeare's theatre is finally reborn. Read Benedict Nightingale's review of *The Winter's Tale* in Arts, pages 35-38



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Philip Howard



■ Fancy life on the ocean wave, Halifaxers? You're cruisin' for a snoozin'

Hi, hip, hurrah! — through gritted teeth — for the Halifax. Each of its 7.6 million members has received an average windfall bonus of £2,500 as the building society mutates into a bank. This makes those of us with the Woolwich or lesser building societies experience the converse of *Schadenfreude*, meaning grief at someone else's pleasure. The four-letter English word for this emotion is envy.

But our grimaces of congratulation for luckier punters turn into grins of pleasure with the news that most of them are planning to blow their windfalls on a cruise. This improbable story is reported by the travel companies, which are as usual launching their next autumn-winter/spring-summer brochures. And so it is as unreliable as the rest of the information in those glossy packages of romance, wishful thinking and downright statistics. Most of us could find a good use for £2,500. We could buy new carpets or a new kitchen, or bring a smirk of incredulity into the bank manager's door.

But you might just as well be jealous of somebody for having mumps or for making a drunken pass at the chairman as for going on a cruise. Not for nothing does the word come from the Latin *cruis*, and so is related to "crucify", "excruciating" and "cross-country running". Its ultimate origin is Punic. For the Carthaginians were world experts on the related activities of torture and cruising. But their Club Meds had iron spikes.

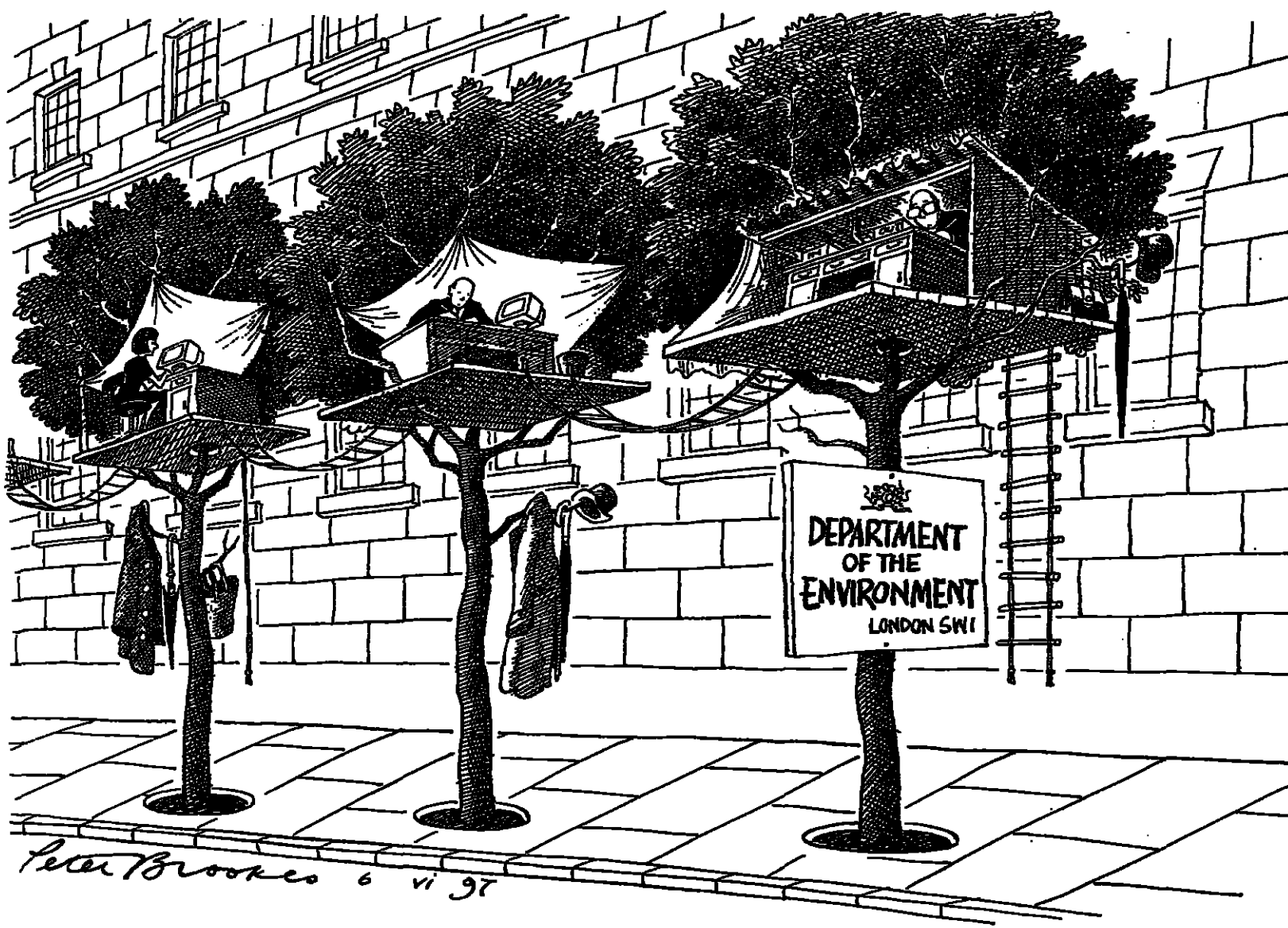
The notion that a cruise is a luxurious and glamorous holiday is an old wives' and old widows' tale. Even in the golden age of cruising in the Thirties, life on the ocean wave for cruise passengers was not all it was cracked up to be by Hollywood and the gossip columns. Such celebrities as were present were either locked in their cabins or at the captain's table. As Dr Johnson noticed, a ship is as penitential as a prison, with less interesting company. And who is this John Prescott lookalike, raging with class envy beneath his smile, and hanging around with his hand out for his tip for having remembered your name? He must be your friendly cabin steward.

Nobody can swallow the gross over-eating and over-drinking. Quite *tu contraindre* for those of us with nervous stomachs at sea. The constant hearty activity on board is copied from primitive holiday or concentration camps. The latest hypercruise liners have miniature golf courses and driving ranges from which to hit balls into the ocean, and "run a mile with a smile" around the decks, announced over the loudspeakers with the fake enthusiasm of the man at Butlin's shouting, "Wahey, wahey, cruisers!" So why go to sea to practise such pointless land-based activities?

From the very beginning the literature has advised against going to sea for pleasure. You are likely to be kidnapped by a cannibal giant with one eye or turned into swine by a witch, in a suitable transformation for those who cruise to eat at the captain's table. Or a Sid James lookalike may turn up as your (inappropriate) captain, or you are captivated by a tidal wave in *The Poseidon Adventure*. The only jolly cruise ever taken in fiction was in *Monkey Business*, and you cannot count on the Marx Brothers being on your passenger list with the blue rines from Des Moines. Any activity of which the high point is the daily lottery, in which passengers guess the number of miles covered in the previous 24 hours, must be pretty boring.

A cruise is travel without getting anywhere, or meeting different people, or opening one's eyes to new sights or one's mouth to foreign foods. Nobody wants to hear about your cruise when you get back home. And your nerdy relatives are not only sorry you went on a cruise, but deeply regret that you came back.

The only tolerable cruises are those in the company of like-minded enthusiasts and lecturers to look at antiquities, paintings or historic sites. But you still see more, and get the feel of foreign parts better, on foot than by cruise. All voyages are also voyages inside oneself. But a cruise rejects the food, avoids the customs, fears the religion, mistrusts the plumbing and avoids the people of foreign parts. You might just as well stay at home. So we at the Woolwich are taking the Halifax windfall with a superior smile.



Tories need votes, not roots

At once it has become commonplace to assert that the first and most important task of any new Tory leader is to buck up the organisation and morale of the Conservative Party in the country. "The essential precondition to recovery of electoral strength" was the way the chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations described what they called "the top priority".

Like so many pieties repeated as mantras, the assertion is tosh. When a party triumphs at an election, journalists are dispatched to produce articles on the "formidable fighting machine" the party has become. When a party crashes, the quest is for news of its organisational failure. But the Tory party's organisation has always been dreadful, and Labour's is not as good as is claimed.

In politics, the myth of "structure and communications" is fast becoming a ruling false nostrum. Not unnaturally, it is peddled by those whose skills lie in these fields. Your Mandelsons and your Millbanks have persuaded the world — and parts of the Conservative Party — that Labour owes its success to presentation. But it was *content*, not cladding, which won for Labour on May 1. The electorate, already sick of the Tories, could see Tony Blair was not a socialist. Every opinion poll registered their near pathetic gratitude at the news. All the rest — the volunteers, the professionals, the money, phone lines, the party machine — followed. But without the central fact of the new Blair-Brown ideology, the machine could never have produced victory.

The Tories do not need a better machine or more members. They need more voters. If the party wishes to enliven its grass roots, it should get itself a good chairman as Chairman. If it wants to win elections, it should get a leader whose message is popular and whose appeal is direct to the nation.

To attract votes, the party and its leader need to engage and please that 98 per cent of us who have never joined any political party, takes little sustained interest in politics, and never will. Such people are not reached via the party's grassroots activity, they are repelled by it. They are reached direct (and often despite the party's national organisation) through the broadcast and print media. The next leader must be, par excellence, a mass communicator: a maestro, not a general manager; a

A Conservative leader's duty is never to pander to activists, but to command the argument and the MPs in Westminster

commander, not a fixer. The Conservative Party in the country is not and never could be a bridge to a wider Britain. It is a cul-de-sac of untypical electors with certain limited fundraising capabilities and an unusual wish to gather for mostly social purposes under the banner of an apparently political but covertly class-based national club.

The facts, then. There is no simple correlation between the size and vigour of a party's national membership and its propensity to win elections. In 1992 the Tory party's membership stood at its

lowest for more than 50 years. That year, more people voted Conservative than ever before. In 1974, the year Harold Wilson won both general elections, the Conservative Party had five times as many members as the Labour Party. The size and morale of any British political party is linked with two factors. But it is a consequence, not a cause, of both.

First, it is subject to a long-term, half-century-old, underlying and irreversible decline in national party membership. People have better things to do these days. Why would anyone with a job to do or a family to raise attend party meetings or fill in questionnaires? It would be eccentric — or, in the lingo of the decade, "sad".

The decline in Tory membership, a phenomenon suddenly on every journalist's lips, has been going on since the 1950s. At the height of her command, Margaret Thatcher led a party with about a quarter of the membership of a floundering Anthony Eden could survey. Since 1960 the party has been losing some 64,000 members a year. Nor is the increase in their average age a recent phenomenon. The collapse of the Young Conservatives accelerated during the 1980s, at the very time when the party's vote-gathering was gaining momentum. Distorting this underlying decline, however, are shorter-term fluctuations

in the membership of parties. They go in and out of favour. When (as with the Tories now) a sharp cyclical fall piggy-backs on to an underlying, historical decline, the gradient becomes breathtaking. The downturn in the cycle — and here the commentators are right — is indeed linked with political failure at Westminster. It is caused by it. Getting Westminster right will bring the upstroke in membership. An upstroke in membership will not get Westminster right.

If this Government stumbles and loses popularity, we shall see the hundreds of thousands of new members Mr Blair has recruited melt away like a spring snowfall. If John Major's successor looks and sounds good in the House and in the media — if the message, the argument — is right, we shall see a sharp recovery in Tory membership.

But, as the century turns, each succeeding peak and trough in the short-term cycle of party membership will be lower than those that went before. This does not matter. There is no reason why parties should have mass memberships, a quest in which, in Europe, Fascism and Communism have led the field.

Why, then, should the Tories want more members? It has not proved necessary in the past. Do we perhaps suppose that, given the plight of the Tory party now, a reinvigorated and enlarged grassroots organisation could help in the future? I doubt this, too. The money is marginal. Around 5 per cent of the party's central funds comes from the constituencies. A bit more could be whipped up, but this is unlikely to be critical. And, though local associations do help to fund their local campaigns, there is no evidence of any strong correlation between the money spent on a constituency campaign and the swing achieved.

Much has been made of the local government argument. It is doubtful.

Success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another question.

The most plausible case for a thriving activist base is the "missionary" or "salesman" argument. The party's paid-up members, it is said, are its bridge to the wider community.

Again, tosh! Its MPs are its bridge to the wider community. They will be wise to bridge direct, rather than via the intermediary of a local party. MPs are responsible to voters — and must be responsive, or they fall. Party activists are responsible to nobody. A Tory leader has a sacred duty to turn a deaf ear to grassroots activists. They are most unlikely to be typical of the general voter. Too often they irritate the general voter. Many activists hold violent, obsessive or minority opinions, caring little what the floating voter thinks.

Did the loony activist ranks of the Labour Party in the early 1980s — the "grass roots" to which it was said Michael Foot, unlike Denis Healey, could appeal — boost its electoral chances? The bulk of Tory activists are not loony, but civilised and sensible people (I find Tory women belie their "blue rinse" image, tending to cautious views) but the most noisy and energetic — especially the activist Tory men — are often the most embarrassing in their opinions.

I do not want the next Tory leader to pitch his appeal to these people; I do not want him to pander to them. I do not want him to see them as his bridge to Britain. I want him to face outward to Britain, not inward to his party. I do not want him to squander his energies flogging up and down the country to please them.

He will best please them by demonstrating command — command of the argument; command of his parliamentary army — at Westminster. MPs at Westminster — and floating voters beyond — need to see a boss at Westminster, not a chaplain, a glorified party manager, a salesman, or a communications supremo.

The lady is not for imitating

John Lloyd says

Blair remains in Thatcher's shadow

Baroness Thatcher loves socialists who come to repentance. She loved Mikhail Gorbachev: in part for the canny reason that, having spotted his star rising, she could be a conduit between the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Ronald Reagan; but more because she loved the feeling of having a close relationship with a man groping for a way out of the economic, social and moral cul-de-sacs into which 70 years of Communism had led him.

That affection now goes to Tony Blair. It is not hard to see his attraction to her. John Major was not only a severe disappointment. He had to be a disappointment. He had his own Conservative Party to mould, the Major way: his failure is part of the reason the party is now in ruins. Though it is arguable that his was an impossible task.

Mr Blair had the Labour Party to remould, and did so if not in her image, at least on her terrain. It was a job one can imagine her loving to have had herself: she had accomplished the Thatcherisation of the Tory party by her third election victory, and was faced thereafter with political rather than ideological struggles. She must have at times been tempted to offer herself for the Labour leadership, to again be able to cut a swathe through the shaky or outmoded or unexamined beliefs of a political class and to have the exhilaration of seeing ideas make a difference.

She is a woman drawn to power and to those who wield it. She can be flattered and pleased by gallantry, and Mr Blair has been courteous and charming to a fault. To be asked to give her views on foreign policy — a subject sufficiently non-partisan to allow the Prime Minister to offer a public invitation, and she to accept it — compensated for the absence of such an invitation from her successor. Lady Thatcher could enjoy being, or at least bear to be, disliked, but she loved to be admired.

For Mr Blair, the reasons for meeting are even clearer. The invitation puts the Thatcher cat among the Tory candidate pigeons. It dilutes the Conservative Party's exclusive ownership of her legacy. It gives the Left something to grumble and whine about, an innocent pleasure he has not lost. It allows him the huge pleasure of being gracious to the woman who has dominated his political — indeed most of his adult — life, and to receive a gracious response in return. It makes him look like the boss. No wonder neither wishes the first date to be the last. There is a larger reason. Margaret Thatcher is by far the most important element behind Mr Blair's assumption of the leadership of the Labour Party. The manner in which she changed the rules of political engagement in this country meant that either Labour played by them, or could not be re-elected. He was the leader who most clearly and completely grasped this: the Blairite party construction stands on Thatcherite foundations.

Critical to his doing this was a certain innocence, which he shared with her: though both were practised politicians, they did what they did more easily because the certain lack of sensitivity to, or even recognition of, the enormous shibboleths they overturned. She was a woman, and thus cut out by sex from the inner mores of her party. He was a public school-educated Oxonian barrister who did not attempt to hide it, and who kept his mind open by letting that which was useless to him or his project flow through it unhindered. Neither loved their party and both were thus free from its entanglements and snares.

They esteem and admire each other. Mr Blair more, but then she has achieved more. But do the meetings mean anything? Will new Labourism be shored a notch or two farther right because of Thatcherite promptings from beyond the limits of her power? No. Mr Blair's habit has ever been to pick up what he can from everyone. He listens, is noncommittal, synthesises and creates his own mosaic of judgments.

When he was junior, his influences were fellow MPs, policy wonks, a little circle of close friends. Now he bestrides the political world he can pick up this from Bill Clinton, that from Lady Thatcher. She has something to teach: a recent trip to Hong Kong would fill some of the gaps in the Prime Minister's knowledge: her instincts and feelings for European leaders — especially Helmut Kohl — would fill some more. But she can no longer guide. His policy on Europe cannot be hers — nor, no matter how wary he is of the corporatism he feels Europe might hoist upon Britain, need it be. She confronted Europe when its aspiration to be social democratic was at its height. He approaches it when that motor is failing, coughing, almost giving up. Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist Premier of France, will show us just how far he will be able to preserve the present social base of his country: it seems likely he will have to engage with the same challenges — to restructure welfare, health systems and employment practices — as other European leaders.

Mr Blair believes he can lead Europe down a third way — between — economic liberalism and corporatism — and he may have a point. He is unlikely to do it while remaining outside the single currency, but he might achieve some of it if he goes in and gives notice of his intent to go in.

That would be very un-Thatcherite. But if the lady was not for turning, she is not now for imitating. Showing her grace in power is a different matter. John Lloyd is Associate Editor of the New Statesman.

Nosed out

THERE are vacancies at the top of the Comic Relief organisation after the departure of three of the charity's ten trustees last month. Talk is of differences between professionals and celebrities in the organisation led by Richard Curtis, who wrote *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Blackadder*, and his girlfriend and broadcaster, Emma Freud.

John Makins, Paddy Coulter and Alan Parker, who work in business and PR, had been with the charity since its founding in

1984. They left the board of trustees after the latest, highly successful Comic Relief Day, and their replacements are yet to be found. Curtis remains as vice-chairman of the trustees, who also include Freud and the comedian Lenny Henry.

Last year Jane Tewson, the popular head of the charity, also left, having been with Comic Relief since it was set up.

Paul Jackson, Comic Relief's chief executive, denies any rift: "The three trustees had been with us since the outset and for different reasons decided to step down at the end of the latest cycle."

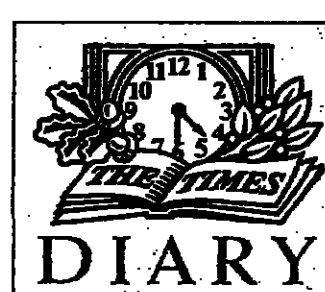
Alan Parker, a big wheel at the City PR firm Brunswick, says that the reasons for the departures were varied, but adds: "People have different ideas about running these things and it seemed time for us to move on. Sometimes you need fresh blood." Others are not so equanimous, saying: "The old guard had had enough and felt overwhelmed by the Curtis and Freud faction."

● Many Australians were spared their team's performance at Edgbaston yesterday when Channel 9 television decided against

screening the first few hours of the Test, picking it up only halfway through the day. Viewers were then greeted by their local presenter looking as though someone had stolen his box and calling his side's first innings "a sorry tale of woe".

With a bang

A SOUR note has crept into the table-talk of Hong Kong's fastest cats, who are competing with each other in the Chinese patriotism stakes. China is determined to outdo the Hong Kong Government's fireworks display for the handover on June 30 with a much bigger one of its own the following day.



Beijing's fireworks pot is rumoured to be a cool £10 million, so the hat is frantically being handed round Hong Kong's boardrooms where conservative tycoons are paying up reluctantly: it pains them to see their loot go up in smoke.

The democrats, meanwhile, are planning their own uses for the fireworks display the night before: as gunpowder smog floats over the harbour, they plan to write freedom messages in the murk with laser beams.

● Insomniacs may care to dig out a new Tory leadership pamphlet called John Redwood, the man, "like getting things done", reads the pamphlet, written by Redwood's Tonto, Hywel Williams. "He has been a businessman, a civil servant, a teacher, a Member of Parliament and a Minister of the Crown." A teacher? Well, a Fellow of All Souls

College, Oxford, is hardly flying rubbers and chalk dust.

Write wing

MY STORY yesterday about Neil Hamilton's desperate attempt to persuade publishers to take his book is only the tip of the iceberg where the scribbling efforts of disenchanted Tories are concerned.

Tim Yeo, the former Environment Minister, who kept his seat, has excited publishers already with his proposal for a book and there are hopes that he might detail the affair with a local council for which culminated in his downfall. Oliver Letwin, the highbrow MP for Dorset West, is also scratching away: Philip Oppenheim is bashing out a parliamentary bonkbuster, as is Edwin Currie, who is churning out another. It won't be long, surely, before "the man" Redwood gets cracking on his Vulcan trilogy.

Ol right

HEARTBREAKING news for male moviegoers. Thandie Newton, the British actress who is turning Hollywood heads with her performance as a seedy nightclub singer in the film *Gridlockd*, has become engaged to the writer and film director, Ol Parker.



Thandie Newton: engaged

Thandie came to public attention in her death scene in the film *Interview With The Vampire*, in which Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt nibbled at her neck. She later cavorted with the rock star Jon Bon Jovi in the film *The Leading Man*.

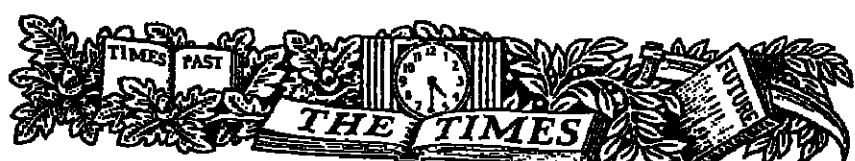
However, her allegiance lies with Parker (a contemporary at Cambridge where she studied anthropology), who cast her in his date-rape drama *In Your Dreams*. Parker's political convictions are struggling in the new climate: he returned his Labour membership card in disgust at Tony Blair's reforms well before the party came to power.

P.H.S



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THE TORY CHOICE

A weekend of consultation and decision lies ahead

This weekend is the last chance for Conservative MPs to consult in their constituencies before voting in the first round of the leadership ballot. Labour's landslide has reduced the Parliamentary Conservative party from an army to a partisan force. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky makes painfully clear on page 15, the Conservative Party in the country is itself in a shrunken state. All surviving MPs should take care to listen to their surviving supporters. The 164 Conservatives in the current Parliament must decide: but the party as a whole should have the loudest voice that the present rules allow.

The candidate who has become most identified with the need for party reorganisation is William Hague. In his recognition of the need for internal reform, his ability to communicate, his youth and his potential to reach out beyond traditional areas of party support he is a plausible Tory Blair. Endorsing Mr Hague, however, like endorsing Mr Blair at the general election, would be endorsing a position still hazily defined, a politician not yet apprenticed in adversity. We understand the hope of his supporters but hope alone is not enough for a Tory recovery.

There are two other candidates, otherwise unlike, who are as battle-hardened as Mr Hague is not. John Redwood is a brave politician, principled enough to resign in 1995 and contest the leadership and courageous enough since to speak the truth to power. In our view, however, he is not the man to wield it. Even those colleagues who respect his heart and mind do not see in him the lineaments of a leader and certainly do not detect the talents of a healer. Kenneth Clarke is another unlikely binder of the party's wounds. The Shadow Chancellor has enormous natural talents but an unwillingness to learn from experience. Life in the Thatcher Government should have taught him that the centre ground is a quagmire. Mr Clarke's talents are obvious: his ability to map a path out of the mire for the Tory party is not.

The remaining two candidates for the leadership have shown an ability to change the terms of political debate. Both Michael Howard and Peter Lilley used political skill and intellectual power to shift the consensus while in office. Mr Howard exposed *bien-pensant* assumptions about crime, held them up to scrutiny and saw many of them fragment. Caricatured as an extremist, he stilled the ritual calls for the rope at Tory party conferences more effectively than any of his liberal predecessors. For that and other achievements he deserves applause — and has often won it from us — but not the highest job in his party.

Peter Lilley's task at Social Security was every bit as tough as Michael Howard's at the Home Office. Like Mr Howard, he inherited a remorselessly rising trend — of spending not crime — and brought it under control. He did more than that, however. Mr Lilley showed a farsighted strategic sense of the need to reform welfare and the way that it should be done. He did so without securing the public vilification endured by Mr Howard, a sign not so much of self-effacement as sure-footedness. He influenced his political opponents as well as his friends. He won arguments even when he was not scoring points.

Mr Lilley does not possess the charisma of Baroness Thatcher: but then neither did she when she became Tory leader and neither does anyone else in this contest. He is not a grand master of the electronic media. But his performances have much improved and will improve further. His instincts are the soundest and the surest in this field. He is rigorously sceptical about the current European project but never narrowly strident. He believes in freedom, for markets, nations and individuals. He appreciates the complementary traditions within the Tory party and wants to make use of them all. Most of all he exemplifies the best of those traditions, the love of liberty. For that he has our support; on that he should be judged this weekend of decision.

FLYNN'S FLYTRAP

Britain faces the cost of signing the social chapter

The first rule of grand strategy is to assess the enemy not just by its intentions, but by its capacity to wage war. The maxim holds equally for dealings with Britain's friends in the European Union. In deciding to end Britain's opt-out from the European social chapter, Tony Blair gave that rule a lower priority than political expediency at home. He has been ambushed for it almost immediately, in the very week that he and Gordon Brown set out to sell their EU plan for jobs based on more flexible labour markets.

The EU directive proposed by Padraig Flynn, the EU Social Affairs Commissioner, is the antithesis of flexibility. It would compel businesses with as few as 50 workers to set up consultation committees for employees. If these companies then made employees redundant or closed factories without consulting the workforce in advance, the decisions would be declared illegal and they could be heavily fined.

Mr Flynn has sprung this trap so rapidly that it must have been ready waiting for the British fly to come within range. The TUC in its unwisdom is delighted. The Government, which is not, may have to comply. Since almost all other EU countries have such legislation already, they will welcome it as a means of reducing Britain's "unfair" competitive advantages. Britain is unlikely to prevent itself being heavily outvoted.

This is not what Mr Blair led business to expect. In Labour's business manifesto, he insisted that far from doing anything to weaken British competitiveness, Labour would carry the British model to the heart of Europe. Yes, Labour would sign the social chapter, but business should lose no sleep over that since "there is no appetite among other EU governments for significant new

labour market legislation". Buried in that phrase was a half-admission that should the appetite revive, the EU could introduce costly and anti-competitive laws. But Mr Blair dismissed that fear with the promise that he would reject any extension of qualified majority voting in social policy. But items introduced under the cover of "working conditions" and "information and consultation of workers" are already subject only to majority decision.

Yesterday in Sweden, in the bosom of Europe's euphoric Socialist parties, Mr Blair bravely extolled the virtues of competition, listing the high economic costs of "rigidity, unnecessary regulation and old-style intervention". Mr Brown says that for Britain to accept social chapter legislation, it must meet three tests: it must increase productivity and job opportunities and actually increase labour market flexibility. But that was never the purpose of the social chapter; its goal is "social protection" — which, for a majority of governments, means curbing the freedoms of company managements.

If outvoted, Britain could mount a legal challenge to this destructive scheme, citing the social chapter provision that EU directives "shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings". Mere mortals might think that the caveat fits this directive to a tee, but whether the European Court of Justice would agree is in the lap of the gods — as the previous Government repeatedly found when it tried such defensive tactics. Mr Blair's boast was that new Britain had said goodbye to all that. If he had not signed the social chapter, it might have been a longer honeymoon.

DNA IN THE DIG

New technologies are telling us with certainty whence we came

The decipherment of the genetic code, one of the great scientific triumphs of the 1960s, has opened many doors. But none, surely, has provided a more enticing or unexpected prospect than the use of genetic information in archaeology and anthropology. Today comes news that DNA analysis is to be used to try to solve one of the mysteries of the Mayan dynasties that ruled large parts of pre-Columbian America. If so, then the language of the genes will have helped us to understand a society whose own hieroglyphic language remained until recently as obscure as the mechanisms of heredity.

DNA serves the archaeologist well because it is both an identifier and a measure of the passage of time. When the skeletons of a family found buried in a pit in Russia were analysed, it was to establish that the mitochondrial DNA they carried matched those of descendants of the Romanov dynasty. The match proved beyond a reasonable doubt that indeed the remains of Tsar Nicholas and most of his family had been found.

But DNA can also serve as a clock, its slow mutation rate measuring the passage of the millennia. Mitochondrial DNA — the type that is found in the organs within cells that provide energy — is passed down unchanged from mothers to children. The only changes are accidental mutations, which occur at a known rate. The study of mitochond-

rial DNA has enabled scientists from Oxford to conclude that 85 per cent of Europeans had a common ancestor in the Ice Age.

In Mexico, the aims are simpler. Archaeologists simply want to know whether the "Red Queen", a royal personage whose tomb was discovered in 1994, was related to King Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the Mayan civilisation in Palenque. By opening Pacal's tomb for the first time since it was discovered in 1952, it may be possible to match his DNA with that of the Red Queen, and establish something new about the rules of descent that governed the Mayan throne.

So can archaeologists throw away their trowels and rely in future on genetic analysis? Certainly not, for archaeology today rests on a broad base of scientific disciplines undreamt of by Heinrich Schliemann when first he went in search of Troy. Radiocarbon and tree-rings can provide reliable dates, while geophysical techniques can reveal ancient structures beneath the ground without even deploying a spade. Each new technique adds cumulatively to the assurance with which archaeologists can state their conclusions, but none is paramount. Together they have given archaeology what no historical discipline has previously enjoyed: the certainty of knowledge based on science. As a result, we all know much better whence we came.

Timetable the key to referendum Bill

From the Director of the Constitution Unit

Sir, Your recent leaders (May 22 and June 4) have argued against guillotining the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill and against holding pre-legislative referendums. You are mistaken on both counts.

There is a strong case for timetable all Bills, and not merely constitutional Bills. As was recommended by the Hansard Society Commission on the Legislative Process, reporting in 1993, timetable can help to ensure both more effective scrutiny and more efficient use of parliamentary time.

As for pre-legislative referendums, it may be sensible to ascertain public opinion before embarking on a major constitutional change. Take the case of Wales, which in the 1979 referendum rejected the assembly proposed in the Wales Act 1978 by four to one. This was after two devolution Bills had taken up much of two parliamentary sessions.

How much parliamentary time and political energy might have been saved if the Welsh people had been invited to express their view before introduction of the legislation rather than after? In the light of that experience it seems only prudent to ascertain the people's view beforehand; but it must be, as you say, on the basis of a detailed and comprehensive White Paper.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT HAZELL,
Director,
The Constitution Unit,
4 Tavistock Place, WC1.
June 4.

From Mr Martin Fotheringham

Sir, As another Scot living and working in London, I agree with Mr Ewan Phillips (letter, May 28) that Scots resident outside Scotland should not be denied the opportunity to vote in the forthcoming referendum.

There is a certain irony in his observation that the captain of the Scottish football team will not have a say in Scotland's future. Gary McAllister missed a penalty for Scotland against England and cannot vote. Sixty seconds later Paul Gascoigne scored a goal playing for England against Scotland and will be allowed to vote.

It is also interesting to note that Ian McGeechan, who is currently working with the cream of British rugby talent to create a side capable of beating South Africa, the world champions, is another Scot who will not be allowed to vote. I believe we should follow his example and concentrate on uniting Britain into a country of world champions rather than wasting time on futile local government issues.

Yours etc,
MARTIN FOTHERINGHAM,
10 Cardigan Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
May 30.

Sport letters, page 47

Jobs at risk

From Sir John Hoskyns,
Chairman of the Burton Group

Sir, Professor George Bain, head of the Low Pay Commission, was quoted (report, June 3) on the possible effects of a minimum wage:

I would be surprised if there were not some job losses, but the question is whether those jobs would be better lost anyway.

This casual remark reveals the disturbing cast of mind of even the most intelligent people when they seek to impose, by administrative process, what should in reality be naturally occurring economic outcomes. Who is to determine which particular jobs should be "lost"? Who is intended to benefit? What appeal process would be available to those doing the jobs in question? How will they be compensated?

Professor Bain is well placed and well qualified to prevent such sloppy — and authoritarian — thinking, not to encourage it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOSKYNs,
Chairman,
The Burton Group, plc,
10 Great Castle Street, W1.
June 4.

Need for a child

From Dr William Cave

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Sexual politics of procreation", May 28) talks of the "misery of infertility" and of easing "the path to happiness for miserable parents". I am one half of an infertile couple and am deliriously happy in my marriage.

Too often the driving principles behind assisted pregnancy seem to be a child at any cost, the desires of the prospective parents must be fulfilled, and the end result justifies the means, no matter how bizarre.

Childlessness is not some dark pit, indeed it may even be viewed by some as liberating, and children are an addition to one's life, not the reason for it.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. CAVE
(General practitioner),
Stanford House,
Priors Hill Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
May 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Defining the role of a women's unit

From the Special Adviser to the Minister for Women

Sir, Your profile of me today could possibly have given the impression that I think it is now laughable to demand that men should do half of the housework.

On the contrary: sharing domestic labour is no less important today than it was in the 1970s. It seems less outrageous because the idea is much more commonplace. Indeed it is widely assumed that where men and women both work they should share domestic labour. The trouble is, they don't — women still do almost all of it.

What we need is much more family-friendly working conditions so that men and women can combine paid employment and parenting on an equal footing. The fight goes on.

Yours sincerely,
ANNA COOTE,
Institute for Public Policy Research,
30-32 Southampton Street, WC2.
June 5.

From the Representative for England to the European Women's Lobby

Sir, It is good news that Harriet Harman, the new Minister for Women, has established a high powered special committee to monitor

all policy development for its impact on both women and men, to be supported by a women's unit (report, "Harman says women will have greater say on policy", June 4; also report, June 5).

I very much hope minister and unit will have all the resources they need and the widest possible brief. As Secretary of State for Social Security, Ms Harman also heads one of the largest departments of the Civil Service, so she has a great opportunity to set an example — by creating a climate in which both men and women are encouraged to achieve a balance between work and home life through putting into effect flexible, family-friendly policies and avoiding the dreaded long-hours culture.

Above all, we need our head of state and our Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when they are in Amsterdam in a few days, to sign up to a new treaty that includes an article making the achievement of equality between women and men fundamental to the "New Europe".

Yours sincerely,
ANNETTE LAWSON,
National Alliance of Women's Organisations,
PO Box 257, Twickenham TW1 4XG.
June 4.

Labour anger at Camelot payments

From Mr George Guise

Sir, New Labour has made its first mistake of philosophy by interfering in the management payments at Camelot (report and City comment, June 3; letters, May 31). If it believes Camelot is failing to deliver the terms of its franchise, it has not only the right but the duty to act. If not, it should leave well alone until the franchise is relet, when it may reset any of the terms, including, if it were so foolish, abandonment of the profit incentive. We could then have a southern European-style lottery, which wastes most of the punters' money on lax administration by myriad low-paid bureaucrats.

If shareholders overpay management they waste only their own money and the disequilibrium is ultimately resolved by the market changing the management, the shareholders, or both. However much the Alf Garnetts may applaud his action, it is no business whatsoever of any Secretary of State. There is a line in the sand between maintaining efficient delivery of a public service such as a monopoly franchise and trying to meddle in the mechanism by which it is delivered.

Hopefully, this is a one-off aberration which demonstrates the danger of bringing populist instincts from opposition to government. Otherwise, let the Government forget its hope of raising substantial risk capital for public projects from the Private Finance Initiative.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GUISE
(Member, Prime Minister's Policy Unit, 1986-90),
90 Long Acre, WC2.
June 3.

From Mr Andrew Heffer
Sir, Government indignation at the increases for the Camelot directors is commendable but misplaced. Until

the franchise to operate the lottery is due for renewal Camelot may presumably do what it likes with its profits.

A far more regrettable development, in my view, is the Labour Party's pledge (report, April 24) to use £1 billion of proceeds from the mid-week draw to fund education and the National Health Service. These are worthy of additional expenditure but they are not the "good causes" that the National Lottery was established to support.

The Government is already the principal "lottery winner" since it receives 13 per cent of lottery revenue in tax. At a time when charities are experiencing significant difficulties in fundraising as a result of the lottery, we face the prospect of its using the proportion previously earmarked for good causes to make good any shortfall in the Treasury's accounts.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HEFFER,
6 Baddeley Hall Road,
Baddeley Green,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
June 4.

From the Reverend Anthony Luckcuck

Sir, The outrage in a teacup over paying the national raffle directors can easily be assuaged: let them instead have payment in kind — say, a weekly handful of scratchcards each, or some free random lottery entries.

Some might feel that that would be too much like adding incentive to injury, but it follows common practice, and (saucy for the goose) are not the odds of winning supposed to be quite good?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LUCKCUCK,
St John's Vicarage,
261 Oakdale Road,
Carlton, Nottinghamshire.
June 3.

Racial harassment

From Councillor George Meehan,
Chair of the London Housing Unit

Sir, Dr Gary Slapper is right: legislation alone will not halt racially motivated crime ("Waging war on prejudice", Law, June 3). Nonetheless, the new Labour Government's desire to rectify the omission of such crime from the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act ought to be encouraged.

In May 1996 the London Housing Unit found that over half of London's councils had obtained possession orders or injunctions in the previous 12 months against tenants who had racially harassed their neighbours. This represents progress compared to a decade ago, but the action was limited to an area over which councils have

some control — their own homes.

Most of those living in the private rented sector, or who own their own homes, cannot shelter under the umbrella of a benign landlord who may take action against their tormentors. Croydon council has recently succeeded in winning a High Court injunction against a private flat owner accused of racially harassing her neighbours over a number of years.

As well as tighter laws and official determination to take action, there is a real need for more imaginative ways of neutralising the racist threat against ethnic minorities.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE MEEHAN,
Chair, London Housing Unit,
Bedford House,
125-133 Camden High Street, NW1.
June 3.

Projecting Mercator

From Dr Bruce Marsden

Sir, Contrary to your leading article of May 29, Gerard Mercator did not produce "the world's first atlas". What he did was to apply the word "atlas" in a specific way to a coherent collection of maps of the known modern world bound together for speculative sale.

The current concept of an atlas was first used by his very good friend Abraham Ortelius in 1570 with his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, closely followed by his compatriot, Cornelius de Jode in 1578, with *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*.

The first volume of Mercator's publication in which the word "atlas" was introduced in the title, *Atlas sive Cosmographicae meditationes de fabrica mundi et fabricati figura* — Atlas or Cosmographical Meditations upon the Making of the World and its Depiction — was published in 1586. The five-part work was still not complete on Gerard's death in 1594, his son Rumold publishing the final volume in the following year.

Mercator was well aware of Ortelius's primacy as an innovative entre-

preneur and congratulated him warmly on his cartographic achievement in correspondence.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE MARSDEN,
9 Brunel Lodge,
Crundas Park, Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 30.

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Mercator was not "a Dutchman", as your leading article alleges. He was born in Rupelmonde in Flanders, then part of the Spanish Netherlands — a territory broadly corresponding with modern Belgium.

Yours sincerely,
LODE WILLEMS,
Embassy of Belgium,
103 Eaton Square, SW1.
May 30.

Business letters, page 31

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

'Cowardice' and stress in wartime

From Mr Richard Thompson

Sir, You have reported and commented on the Minister for the Armed Forces' decision to review a number of cases of desertion and "cowardice" in the 1914-18 war which led to the execution of the servicemen concerned (leading article, May 28; letters, June 3).

I have written to the minister concerning the treatment of a number of Royal Air Force aircrew in the Second World War. The aircrew concerned became unfit or unable to continue operational flying as a result of the stress involved. They were reduced to the ranks (if NCOs) and had their documents endorsed "lack of moral fibre". Their flying brevets were forfeited.

As a member of aircrew in Bomber Command I was fortunate that the war in Europe ended when I had been on operations for only three months. At 18 I started out with no idea of the stress involved.

Now that so much more is understood about stress, perhaps this is the time for steps to be taken to ensure that the aircrew involved have their service records cleansed of this "lack of moral fibre" label.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD THOMPSON,
34 Nethergate,
Crail, Anstruther, Fife.
June 4.

From Professor John A. Davis

Sir, I welcome the decision to consider pardoning soldiers shot for alleged cowardice or desertion in the First World War.

I recollect my father telling me he had to be present at the shooting of a French deserter. The man to be shot was accompanied to the place of execution by a comrade who was also a priest. The priest said something to the frightened boy — he was no more — who in response drew himself up to attention and faced the firing party as if on parade.

My father asked the priest what he said to effect such a transformation. "I told him," the priest replied, "that he was dying for his country like all the rest — as indeed he was."

Men, often volunteers, who faced what they had to endure until it broke them deserve to have their names inscribed on our memorials alongside their comrades who were killed in action.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
1 Cambridge Road,
Great Shelford, Cambridge.

School worship

From the Reverend Struan H. Dunn

Sir, Reading your letters today on the proposed abolition of collective worship in schools, I was reminded of the introduction by the historian, David Newsome, to *Godliness & Good Learning — Four Studies on a Victorian Ideal* (John Murray, 1961):

"What is a college without a chapel?" Bishop Christopher Wordsworth, once asked a friend, a canon of Winchester Cathedral. "An angel without wings," was the prompt reply. The Bishop went on his way rejoicing. We need not wonder at his pleasure. His friend had expressed in a single phrase the ideal of "godliness and good learning" and had confirmed the Bishop's own conviction that to separate education from religion was as grievous as to set a man to climb a mountain and then deprive him of a guide.

Such a view may be easily dismissed today. But there must be some people, myself included, who believe that the above ideal envisages a wisdom applicable to every age.

Yours sincerely,
STRUAN H. DUNN,
The Rectory,
Shipley Hills Road, Meopham, Kent.
June 4.

Wrong Q

From Mr Desmond Llewellyn

Sir, I am afraid PHS (June 2) is misinforming: there is no such character as "Q" in the Bond books.

"Q", a quartermaster, owes his origin to a line from the script of the film, *From Russia with Love*, in which I was introduced as the equipment officer (luckily for me, Peter Barton, the actor who played Major Boothroyd in *Dr No*, was not available).

Major Boothroyd does not become "Q" in the credits until, I think, *Diamonds are Forever*, in which film he is called "Q" for the first time.

Yours sincerely,
DESMOND LLEWELLYN,
c/o Rebecca Blond Associates,
52 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1.

Sinking feeling

From Mr Henry Robinson

Sir, My congratulations to the University Challenge teams who managed to memorise vast tracts of useless esoteric and to Magdalen College for performing such rapid mental arithmetic (report, June 5) — but I feel that among such bright sparks, someone should have spotted that, according to the stated dimensions and volume, Noah's Ark was shaped like a brick.

Yours truly,
HENRY ROBINSON,
27 Redwing Road,
Clanfield, Hampshire.
June 5.

OBITUARIES

RONNIE LANE



Ronnie Lane, pop singer, songwriter and bassist, died yesterday in Trinidad, Colorado, from multiple sclerosis aged 51. He was born on April 1, 1946.

Until multiple sclerosis put an end to his career in the late 1970s, Ronnie Lane was never far from the heart of British pop. Even when too ill to perform, he remained a popular figure, and the roster of stars who played benefit concerts for him after the onset of his disease — Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Bill Wyman, Stevie Nicks, Jimmy Page — was proof of the esteem and affection in which he was held.

As a founder member of the Small Faces, Lane helped to create one of the great British groups of the 1960s. Formed as the quintessential Mod band in 1965 — all rhythm 'n' blues and modish suits — they made a typical progress towards the sonic adventures and flowery shirts of late-1960s psychedelia. Through it all — thanks in no small part to Lane's skinny, good-humoured, cockney presence — they retained a quirky charm, a tongue-in-cheek English wit that allowed them to blend their musical sources into a sound uniquely their own. They produced some of the most enduring songs of the period, many of them co-written by Lane.

That easygoing appeal was taken further when the Small Faces turned into the Faces and went big. Fronted by the singer Rod Stewart, their cheerful combination of sloppily laddish behaviour and taut musical precision made them one of the most successful acts of the 1970s. Lane's later career never reached the same heights, though as a solo artist and with his own group, Slim Chance, he continued to produce well-crafted and engaging songs, performed with integrity and style.

Ronnie Lane was born in Plaistow, east London. At 19 he was playing the local pub in a trio with the drummer Kenney Jones and the organist Jimmy Winston; they were joined in mid-1965 by the singer and guitarist Steve Marriott, who had been performing in musicals such as *Oliver!* from the age of 12, and the Small Faces were born.

British pop was booming. The style-conscious Mod scene offered a thriving market for tightly structured dance music, and with record labels anxious not to miss the next sharp-suited

sensation, the group had no difficulty in securing a recording contract. Within weeks they had their first Top 20 hit, with *Watcha Gonna Do About It*, a finely honed homage to American R & B, in which Lane and the band created a perfect punchy showcase for the impassioned whine of Marriott's voice.

Winston was soon replaced by Ian McLagan, and the group began to build a solid following with an energetic round of live performances. The following year brought further chart success, with *Sha-La-La-Lee*, *Hey Girl* and *All or Nothing*, the group's only No 1.

A change of label in 1967 heralded a

productive new phase of experiment and creativity. In songs such as *Ichyco Park* and *Lazy Sunday Afternoon*, and on the chart-topping album *Ogden's Nut Gone Flake* with its circular sleeve modelled on a tobacco tin, they created their own endearingly eccentric brand of psychedelia, catching to perfection the lazy, slightly fuddled charm of the era.

Marriott's departure, to form Humble Pie with Peter Frampton in 1969, signalled the end of the Small Faces. Lane and his colleagues soon got back together, however, joined by Ronnie Wood and Rod Stewart of the Jeff Beck Group. Their early recordings — albums such as *First Steps*, *Long*

Player and *A Nod as Good as a Wink*, and memorable singles such as *Stay with Me* — were an accurate reflection of their live act: raucous, rugged and not nearly as ramshackle as it seemed.

The raw, distinctive rasp of Stewart's voice soon became the group's main selling point, so much so, that the others began to feel overshadowed. As Stewart's parallel solo career blossomed, the tensions within the Faces became more acute. The down-to-earth Lane, in particular, was quite out of sympathy with Stewart's only half-ironic flirtation with the trappings of glam rock, and he left the group in 1973.

Lane's new group, Slim Chance, which included Benny Gallagher and Graham Lyle, who were later to be a successful act in their own right, had a Top 20 hit in 1974 with *How Come*. It was followed by another, equally lively but slightly less successful single, *The Poacher*, and by a well-received album, *Anytime for Anyone*, on which Lane combined homespun cover-versions with some unpretentious original songs.

Lane's determination to create an ambitious travelling rock circus, complete with jugglers, fire-eaters and sideshows, ran into financial difficulties, and the original Slim Chance broke up. Lane replaced it with a new line-up and recorded two outstanding albums, *Ronnie Lane's Slim Chance* and *One For the Road*, before disbanding the group altogether in 1977.

That year, which saw Lane recording a critically acclaimed collaboration with Pete Townshend of The Who, also saw the onset of the disease that was to bring his career to a close. He recorded another solo album in 1979, *See Me*, before his condition deteriorated and he was confined to a wheelchair. He continued to perform as and when he could.

Lane, whose considerable earnings had been consumed by years of high living, found himself in severely straitened circumstances and struggling to meet medical bills. Famous friends from the Sixties came to his rescue with a series of concerts to benefit both him and the charities researching his condition.

Lane was three times married. He is survived by his third wife, Sue, whom he married in 1989, and by the children of a previous marriage.

JOHN EWERS



John Ewers, American ethnologist, died on May 7 aged 87. He was born on July 21, 1909.

JOHN EWERS devoted his life to preserving a culture often sharply at odds with his own traditional American upbringing. An ethnologist and champion of American Indian history, he was considered one of the foremost scholars in the United States in the anthropology of Plains Indians and the history of the West.

His three-and-a-half years living among the tribal elders of the Blackfoot Indian tribe in the 1930s resulted in a groundbreaking study of its culture. It provided first-hand accounts of life before the tribes were affected by white settlers. Scholars today directly credit the spawning of further studies into the cultures of the Blackfoot, Crow and Salish Kootenai tribes to his early research.

John Canfield Ewers was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from both Dartmouth College and Yale University with degrees in anthropology. Working under the direction of anthropologist Clark Wissler, Ewers resolved to devote his life to recording the oral histories of the Plains Indians, particularly of the Blackfoot and their neighbours.

Indeed, his first book, *Plains Indian Painting: A Description of Aboriginal American Art* (1939) actually began as his master's thesis.

In 1934 Ewers went to work as a field curator for the National Park Service. He followed this with a term at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Browning, Montana, and it was there that he founded the Museum of the Plains Indian, becoming its first curator in 1941.

After two years as an officer in the US Navy in the Pacific during the Second World War, Ewers returned to the Indian States, his passion for Indian culture remaining undimmed.

When he joined the Smithsonian Institution in Washington in 1946 as associate curator of ethnology, he resolved to bring Native American history to the fore and breathe sharp life into the dusty exhibits as "horrible examples from the horse and buggy days".

He quickly went to work upgrading displays, designing education programmes and managing the installation of exhibits from among the Smithsonian's 10 million specimens. Ethnographers today attribute to Ewers a seminal bridging of the gap between white and Native American culture.

Although highly regarded for his work at the Smithsonian, Ewers's books on Native American culture brought him to national attention. His sensitivity to, and dissection of, Native American life was considered to be groundbreaking in the field of anthropology. He wrote, among other things, *The Horse in Blackfoot Indian Culture* (1955), *The Blackfoot Raiders on the Northwestern Plains* (1958) and *Indian Art in Pipestone* (1979).

The reach of his influence as an ethnologist went far beyond the world of academia. The noted Native American fiction writer James Welch, often called the "Indian Hemingway", considered Ewers a crucial influence on his work. In his novel *Fools Crow* (1987), Welch recounted the story of the Marias River Massacre of 1870 when white settlers slaughtered 173 Indians, mostly women and children. He relied primarily on Ewers's works to flesh out historical detail, and from Ewers, he said, he learnt how to tan a hide and perform a sun dance ceremony.

In 1979 Ewers retired from the Smithsonian after being given the title of ethnologist emeritus. He was a fellow of the American Anthropological Association, and his contributions to the history of the Plains Indian ethnology and museology brought him many honorary degrees and awards, among them the Honor Award of the Native American Art Studies Association.

Ewers continued to be very active professionally, conducting research, publishing, speaking and attending conferences until early this year. His wife, Margaret Dumville Ewers, died in 1983, after 53 years of marriage. He is survived by two daughters.

HELEN JACOBS

Helen Jacobs, American tennis player, died on June 2 aged 88. She was born on August 6, 1908.

"NOT for many a day," *The Times* reported, "has Wimbledon heard a warmer cheer than that which greeted Miss H. Jacobs... as, at long last, she made her bow on the Centre Court as Lady Champion." It was persistence as much as talent that had endeared Jacobs to the crowd on that overcast Saturday in 1936; this was her fifth final in eight years. And it was persistence that secured her eventual victory over Hilde Krahwinkel Sperling of Denmark in a hard-fought match lasting an hour and forty minutes.

There has seldom been a final match that looked so even before it was begun and turned out to be perhaps closer than anyone had expected," *The Times* correspondent thought. "Towards the end, it

was not so much a matter of strokes — 30, 40 or even 50 to the rally — as of the dogged will to win of each player." Success at Wimbledon was the high point of a career that had already seen Jacobs take the US national title four years running, from 1932 to 1935. In 1936 she was ranked No 1 in the world. But it is not as a champion that she will chiefly be remembered. It was her misfortune that her playing days coincided with those of another, more formidable American woman, Helen Wills Moody, and in the widely publicised rivalry between "the two Helens", it was Jacobs who almost invariably came off worse.

Helen Hull Jacobs was born in Globe, Arizona, and grew up in San Francisco. She and Helen Wills lived in the same suburban suburb, went to the same school and were members of the same tennis club in Berkeley, where they even

shared a coach, William C. ("Pop") Fuller. In temperament, however, the two were very different. Jacobs was genial, energetic and tenacious; Wills, three years her senior, was aloof, determined and icily assured. Relations between them were always cool, though never, each insisted, as cool as the press was fond of suggesting. The ever-eager Jacobs became known as "Little Helen", "Helen Two" or "Helen the Second"; the indomitable Wills was "Helen the First", "Big Helen", "Miss Poker Face".

"To play Helen Wills was to play a machine," Jacobs said; her demeanour on court was story, her silence unrelenting. The players first met in a practice match in 1923, a tryout for Jacobs who lost 6-0, 6-0 in the space of twenty minutes. "Thus," she wryly observed, "was I introduced to the sort of tennis that wins national championships."

The first such championship encounter for the two Helens came five years later at Forest Hills: Wills won 6-2, 6-1. The next year, Wills was invited by the United States Lawn Tennis Association to play a series of internationals in Europe with a partner of her choosing. Jacobs, by then second in the American rankings, was the obvious choice: when Wills picked Edith Cross instead, it gave rise to much discussion. Jacobs went to Europe anyway in 1929, meeting Wills in the Wimbledon final. The match was almost a rerun of their contest at Forest Hills. So, too, was the final of the French championship in 1930. But their most famous battle was three years later. Jacobs had won the American national championship in 1932, but the gloss was rather taken off her achievement by the fact that Wills did not take part that year. As a result their 1933

meeting at Forest Hills was all the more keenly anticipated. Played before a crowd of 8,000, it was Wills's eighth attempt at the championship — she had won it in 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1931. She had not lost a match on any court since 1926. Jacobs, having taken advice from Suzanne Lenglen, the great French champion of the 1920s, was determined to go to the net as often as possible; there was no point standing on the baseline swapping drives with a player of Wills's power and precision.

The tactic worked, and Jacobs took a fiercely contested first set 6-6; it was the first set she had ever won against Wills, and the first Wills had lost to anyone in some six years. Wills came back to win the second 6-3. Then, in the third, when Jacobs was leading 3-0, Wills suddenly complained of injury and announced that she would have to withdraw. It gave Jacobs the match by default, but it somewhat soured her victory.

"There is no doubt," Jacobs drily remarked in a book she later wrote, "that Helen, for her own sake, would have been wiser if she had remained on the court for the twelve points necessary for me to end the match in the third set." As it was, Wills then announced her determination to play as scheduled in the final of the ladies' doubles, until persuaded by officials and her partner that this was unlikely to find favour with the crowd. She never played at Forest Hills again.

Jacobs always denied that she bore a grudge, but the Forest Hills incident was widely taken as evidence of hostility between the two women, and this coloured the public's view of their subsequent encounter in the Wimbledon Ladies' final of 1935, before a capacity Centre Court crowd. Wills, who herself launched a surprising net attack in the second set, won the match 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, though Jacobs had had match point at 5-3. Jacobs resented suggestions that Wills had been excessively jubilant in victory, or that she herself had been tearful in defeat.

The two great rivals had what turned out to be their last major competitive encounter at Wimbledon in 1938, with Wills the victor once again. It was a thoroughly one-sided affair. Jacobs, who had injured her Achilles tendon in a quarter-final match against



Jadwiga Jedzejowska, further damaged it in leading to meet a cross-court return in the fifth game of the first set of the final. Mindful of Forest Hills, perhaps, she played on.

Jacobs eventually retired from tennis in 1947, having won nine Grand Slam titles (and a triple crown of singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the 1934 United States Nationals). She spent 12 years in the world top ten from 1928, and earned her place in Wimbledon history not just as a well-liked winner and runner-up, but as the woman who popularised "masculine" shorts on court ("It seemed the sensible thing to do," she said). During the Second World

War she served in US naval intelligence, and she re-enlisted in the Navy in 1949, eventually serving more than 11 years in all, and reaching the rank of commander, one of only five women to have done so at the time.

She later worked as the business partner of the London society photographer Dorothy Wilding, and was also a farmer, dog-breeder and sportswear designer. She was a prolific writer whose 19 books included volumes of autobiography, tennis coaching guides, appreciations of great women athletes, stories for schoolgirls and novels set in the world of tennis. She never married.

Singles by beating Mrs. Peacock, of South Africa, in two sets (6-2, 6-4). It was a question of agility triumphing over science and experience. The Dutch player was superior both in endurance and in her ability to get about the court.

LAWN TENNIS.

DEFEAT OF TILDEN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

R. Lacoste defeated W.T. Tilden in the final round of the French Hard Courts Championship here today by three sets to two (6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 11-9).

When the match was over the French spectators gave Lacoste a great ovation. He had certainly played an astonishing game, and twice had pulled an almost lost match out of the fire. Tilden on each occasion had been within a point of victory. Lacoste, moreover, played for a time under a serious disadvantage. In diving to make a return during the third set, he strained a muscle in his leg and was scarcely able to do more than hobble about the court for the last three games. Tilden won that set. During a ten minutes' interval Lacoste's leg was massaged, and he came back to the court in a much improved condition. He won the next set.

The final set was one of the most exciting games of lawn tennis one could wish to see. The points alternated through nearly every game: first Tilden won that set, then Lacoste, until the set stood at 6-6. Then, Lacoste took the lead and won the seventh game by some remarkable placing. Tilden's service, how-

ON THIS DAY

June 6, 1927

"The American champion served three fast balls in succession which Lacoste seemed unable to see..." This sounds only too true for the American was W.T. Big Bill Tilden, whose own-half service could often be unplayable. Nevertheless, his French opponent, René Lacoste, won the match.

ever, proved too much for him in the next game. The American champion served three fast balls in succession which Lacoste seemed unable to see. Tilden, in the next game, made the score read 40-15, but Lacoste recovered, as he did repeatedly throughout the match, took the game, and in the next game once more secured the lead. In the last three games a drizzle of rain was falling, and it began to look as though the match might be postponed. So great was the excitement that the umpire several times had to appeal to the spectators for silence.

Mr. Bouman, of Holland, won the Ladies'

Doubles: semi-final Round: R Lacoste and J Borotra (France) beat W Tilden and F Hunter (United States) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; J Brugnon and H Cochet (France) beat J Raymond and J Condon (South Africa) 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.

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